

CHOLMELEIAN

The

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HIGHGATE



EDITOR'S Notes

It has been a pleasure to help shape this year's edition of *The Cholmeleian*.

Despite ongoing Covid restrictions, a range of contributors and authors from across the School and OC communities have collaborated with enthusiasm, compassion and honesty to produce what we hope will provide an interesting and informative read. The Pandemic Papers, compiled by Simon Appleton, offer a snapshot of how students and OCs coped with life under lockdown. We are also grateful to Julia Hudson and her team of archivists for a series of fascinating pieces, one of which celebrates the centenary of Cordell House, and our sincere thanks go to Michael Hammerson who has once again ably compiled the extensive OC Notes section. Finally, it should be mentioned that the magazine is now designed entirely in-house by our dedicated Communications team. We are most appreciative of their time and expertise at such a busy point in the school year.

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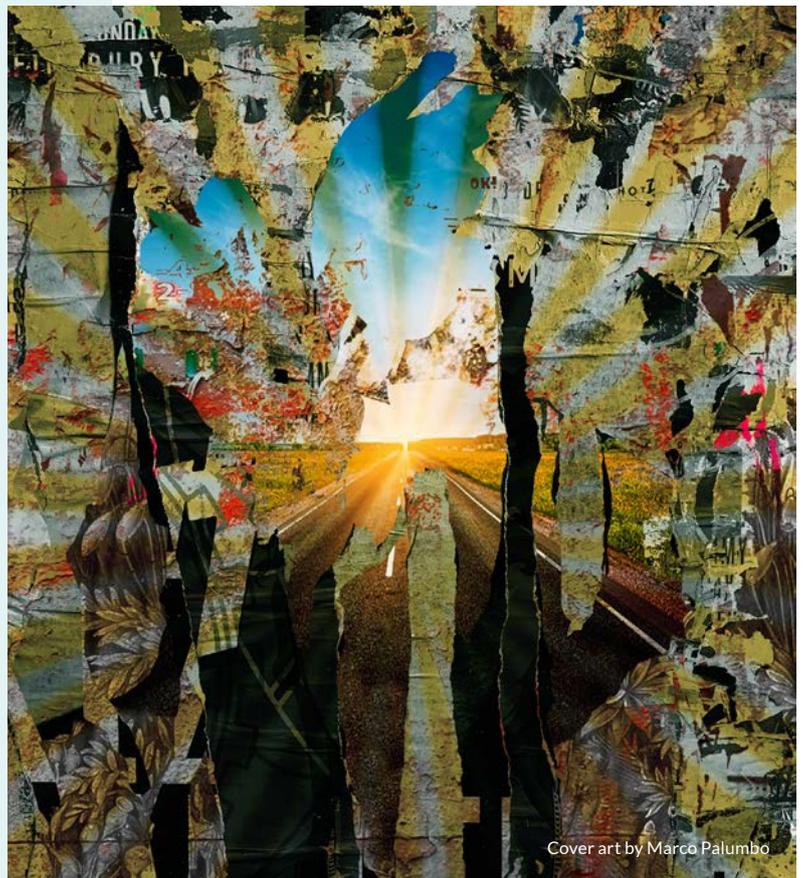
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Contents

- 2 President's Letter
- 3 The Pandemic Papers
- 9 Archives
- 17 Features
- 21 Highgate is Here
- 23 Events and Sport
- 27 Profiles
- 39 School News and Features
- 49 School Valet
- 59 Obituaries
- 61 Notes



Cover art by Marco Palumbo

President's Letter



Hello OCs everywhere,

It is now 18 months since I was appointed President, and I have had tremendous fun attending events and meeting so many interesting OCs aged from 18 to 95 years, spanning nine decades in total. I have also enjoyed working with so many willing OCs who are keen to ensure that this valuable network of over 7000 members charts a progressive course into the future for OCs of all ages.

When my presidency began two years ago, I was both honoured and excited, but, of course, I could never have imagined that so much of my tenure would be within the midst of a global pandemic. This has been such a difficult period for so many people, and my thoughts remain with those of you who have endured real hardship or the loss of loved ones. The last 12 months has really defined the importance of support from friends, family and key workers who have been crucial to so many of us. I have always thought of the OC network as a family and, as I am sure so many of you have been, I have been grateful for the support of OC friends, whilst also proud of those numerous OCs who have stepped up to support others.

Those who know me well will confirm that my priority as President was to encourage the involvement of more OCs by connecting with other OCs. What I had in mind was physical meetings with plenty of live events. Covid-19 put paid to all of those ideas, including our musically themed OC dinner at Stationers' Hall. What a shame for all those OC musical performers and excited OC guests. However, every cloud has a silver lining and, whilst we have not been able to meet in person, OCs have been connecting at virtual events and within OC newsletters. In addition, the OC Committee has been working closely with the Development Office to improve communications with OCs at every level. The lockdowns have accelerated the School's need and expertise in this area. In the near future, an OC mentoring programme will be operating using the "OC Connect" platform and LinkedIn is already being promoted as a simple way for OCs to meet. Both should provide a platform for OCs to keep in touch, either socially or professionally. This should result in many more OCs both giving and gaining support in careers or their chosen OC activities.

I want to single out three successes that have been achieved in recent months. Firstly, the progress of the newly formed OC Sports Committee, which includes the captains of the many different sports played by OCs, and secondly the re-launch of the Business Section to reflect the post-COVID climate, with an emphasis on helping OCs to deal with change and develop their careers through mentoring schemes and an accelerator programme. The third

achievement has been the cooperation between the School and the Society that was formalised in April by the signing of a new legal agreement. This confirms the terms of the School's continuing support for the OC Society, whilst recognising our independence as a self-governing entity.

To celebrate the fortitude of so many OCs and to compensate for two postponed dinners, it is planned to hold a safe but special OC Lunch on Friday 8th October at Cutlers' Hall in the City. Please save the date; details of the purchase of tickets have been sent by email, but please do get if you have not yet received an invitation.

OCs' contributions during this past year have been outstanding, and I am immensely grateful to you all. I look forward to being able to thank OCs in person, and to meet you again face to face at reunions and other events. So please do make sure that we have your details, so that our sociable, diverse, and supportive group can keep building upon the best traditions of those Old Cholmeleians who preceded us. One certain way of ensuring that we can keep in touch with you is to email: OC@HighgateSchool.org.uk.

My final word is to thank my OC colleagues on the General Committee who have worked tirelessly over the last year on a range of things. We are diverse in all ways, and this has really helped when working on a variety of OC matters. Our Zoom meetings have never been boring, and I am so grateful for the active participation and commitment shown by all.

Yours,

Richard Brewster (CH 1959)
Old Cholmeleians President

The Pandemic Papers

An Introduction by Adam Pettitt, Head

As soon as it became clear that Governments around the world would have to shut down schools, teachers had to reach for existing technology so that teaching could continue.

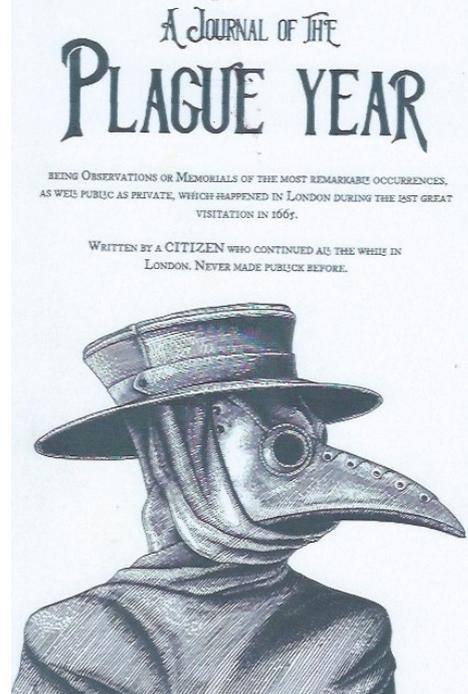
At Highgate, after a warm-up phase of setting self-guided lessons (downloadable videos and narrated slideshows) while teachers were quickly familiarised with 'Zoom' and the School secured licences to use Zoom commercially, pupils 'met' their teachers live online for the majority of lessons, listening in to explanation and instruction, answering questions and following the teacher's exposition while the screen was, to use the jargon, 'shared.' Every day some pupils would log on earlier than others and could chat with the teacher before the lesson got underway; similarly, pupils could hang around at the end of the lesson, before logging out, to ask a question or explain a missing homework. A proportion of every lesson would be spent working on a task: in some cases, this was done in a digital exercise book which the teacher could see as the pupil wrote: instead of wandering up and down a row of desks, your teacher would flick from online exercise book to online exercise book. Pupils would make presentations to class or volunteer opinions on another pupil's work or ideas. So much, so familiar: the technology was allowing the lessons, and the all-important connection between the teacher and the pupil to take shape, just differently.

Smaller groups of older pupils not being physically together had less of an impact on the quality and efficacy of discussion that we might have feared: I wonder, looking back, whether we will remember whether a telling exchange between students or a penny-drop moment took place before or after lockdown. We found that larger classes of pupils working towards a known and shared goal could be handled successfully: in the absence of an unwell teacher, for example, exam sets worked well if they were 'collapsed' and taught by a teacher in a parallel set, without

the constraints of a classroom designed for 24 seated learners. Getting pupils together for almost impromptu online catch-up lessons proved much easier. If everyone is only sitting at their desk or their device, and not needing to move around to join a teacher, there are fewer constraints. One-to-one lessons, including instrumental lessons, worked a treat.

Not everything found its online equivalence: while Highgate's answer(s) to Joe Wicks kept pupils exercising regularly, and while coaches met up with their squads, it wasn't only the ban on training and contact that kept team practices and matches off the curriculum: no existing technology can stand in for face-to-face sports coaching! In drama, inventiveness abounded, but working in isolation has its limits, particularly in ensemble work. Musicians performed as soloists so that their contributions could be woven together for online broadcasts, but the experience of rehearsing and performing together, especially to a live audience, went west. Science had to press the pause button on most experiments: the labs stood empty; the equipment lay unused.

What did it feel like? Starved of face-to-face contact with pupils, as a teacher I was just delighted to see my class, even when mediated as a series of icons across my computer screen. The fact that pupils could efface their images – or have difficulty using their computer cameras, where they had them – made me all the more conscious of how important it was to connect with those fleeting images. But it felt like talking to 20 individuals who did not connect unless they did so clandestinely online; it was harder to create an atmosphere, to get a sense of how everyone was feeling on a given day; it was, perhaps, more monochrome and two-



dimensional than the real thing, however much I marvelled at the technology which let me see these locked-down pupils. I could imagine being grateful for such a connection with pupils living a long way away or locked down in hospital, much as grandparents bless social media for letting them chat with their grandchildren in faraway India, Australia or Canada, but there was less buzz: the worst that could happen – and it rarely did – was that the IT would let me down; and the best? Well, that we would keep going, and that what needed learning was learnt.

My interim conclusion – after all, COVID-19 is still with us – is that there are good reasons why the oft maligned, traditional structures of school life persist around the globe, wherever children can safely get to a school: not only do their parents and carers need them out of the house if they are to lead their adult lives, even if they work from home, but the coming together to learn and to play makes their experience a richer one by miles, for all the inconveniences and impracticalities of getting to and from school. The buzz in a classroom is quite often an actual buzz, one of chatter and excitement at co-discovering or witnessing the interesting and the absurd, the ephemeral and the eternal, with others who don't poo-poo your experiences because of greater age and familiarity. And, for me, the alchemy of that relationship between the teacher and their class, the daily anticipation of a lesson that works because you know they care and they're good at what they do, and that they are there providing for and investing in you, a live performance which is unique, can't be re-wound or fast-forwarded, is forged in person, not online and not with an avatar.

Adam Pettitt

A Journal of the Plague Year

by Simon Appleton, channelling the spirit of Daniel Defoe

An historical introduction

Daniel Defoe, polemicist, entrepreneur and author best known for 'Robinson Crusoe,' remained in London during the Great Plague of 1665. He came to question the wisdom of this decision, concluding the only real way to evade the plague was to flee it, but his readers are grateful for his eyewitness account of its ravages, as well as his wisdom and insight into how the disease was handled by the authorities.

The Great Plague, lasting from 1665 to 1666, was the last major epidemic of the bubonic plague to occur in England. It killed an estimated 100,000 people—almost a quarter of London's population—in 18 months. For comparison, that would be two million people in terms of current population numbers.

It was in 1665, the School's centennial year, that the Great Plague erupted in London. It was brought along the trading routes with the East into Amsterdam in the September of 1664, and was carried by merchantmen into London, where it erupted with full ferocity in the Spring of 1665. The bubonic plague is named after the characteristic eruptions along the lymph glands of agonising swellings, called 'buboes', which either broke and discharged, or killed the sufferer. The pain was intense: Defoe writes: 'some, not able to bear the torment, threw themselves out of windows or shot themselves or otherwise made themselves away. Some would run directly down to the river....and plunge themselves into the water wherever they found it.'

Great pits were dug, and the bodies brought by carts at night to be buried. At the height of the plague, in the two months between August and September, 50,000 people died, according to Defoe's calculations from the bills of mortality. Final estimates of the total number who died are around 100,000.

The authorities initiated what we would call a 'hard lockdown'. The houses of the infected were marked with a red cross, the inhabitants were forbidden to leave, and watchmen set at their doors to ensure compliance. As it was a death sentence to the healthy still within the house, many tried to escape out of doors

and windows, across roofs, or distracted the watchman while they made good their escape. Some watchmen were set upon and beaten, and Defoe records a case where: 'they blew up a watchman with gunpowder, and burned the poor fellow dreadfully'.

Defoe concluded that the lockdown didn't work. He thought that once the plague was endemic, it was beyond human agency to prevent: 'And this is the reason why it is impossible in a visitation to prevent the spreading of the plague by the utmost human vigilance.' He articulated the problem which the modern test and trace systems face: '...people have it when they know it not, and they likewise give it to others when they know not they have it themselves; and in this case shutting up the well or removing the sick will not do it, unless they can go back and shut up all those that the sick conversed with, even before they knew themselves to be sick, and none knows how far to carry that back, or where to stop; for none knows when or where or how they may have received the infection, or from whom.'

Defoe was sustained by a powerful faith in God, although this caused him to question what humanity had done to deserve this affliction. Perhaps the revels of the Caroline Court, removed during the plague to Oxford? He died in 1731, and was buried in Bunhills



Simon Appleton at Bunhills Cemetery raising spirit of Defoe

Cemetery in the Borough of Islington. I conjured up Defoe's ghost and summoned him up the Holloway and Archway Roads, following the route of Sir Roger Cholmeley up Highgate Hill, to see how the School fared in the pandemic of 2020-2021....

....Defoe was baffled by the internet: staring at the screen, his periwig slipping agitatedly off his spectral head, he declared: "'tis an abomination! Witchcraft and wizardry!" "But it is the way the School sustained its role of supporting teaching and learning, and how the community stayed together, yet apart," I explained to him. I flattered him that, with his experience of the Great Plague of 1665, his spirit should guide the government's SAGE Committee. He stared at me first quizzically, then sceptically.

"In the 21st Century, do you believe that herbs will protect you from the plague?" he snorted. I struggled to explain acronyms to him and how modern people spoke in fluent acronym, and how the government was guided by 'the science.'

"Which one?" asked Defoe.

"They're not clear," I replied, "but whichever one it is, they follow it to the letter except when it contradicts their own interests."

Defoe and I then read the pieces we asked our pupils and OCs to write, recalling their experiences of lockdown...

Contributions from Pupils

Max

It is March 5th, a chilly morning, as I retrieve my phone from far inside the deep pockets of my coat. The wind brushes all my hair in front of my face as if it is telling me not to look at the news, not to put myself through what was on the screen.

Tapping the red box that is BBC News, even the sluggish Wi-Fi is trying to prevent me from reading the headline, but I persist. In big black letters, I finally glance at, "First death of coronavirus in the UK."

This was over three months ago, but it feels like decades. Just under three weeks later, the United Kingdom was plunged into lockdown, with aspirations and occupations cruelly crushed with immediate effect. I have never been that worried about this virus. My primary concern was when I could meet my

friends again, and live a normal life, but even that hope was flattened. Like snails, we were forced to hibernate from then on, however we were unsure when we could re-emerge.

There's one area that I've missed a lot, and that's my education, although I'm so grateful that I've had such a supportive network of teachers to help me through this crisis. School has been so interesting, and I feel that I've become more independent through the crisis, particularly in the field of technology, despite the network connection

struggling to meet the task of providing my entire family with stable internet. There has been the occasional funny moment on the Zoom software, with people accidentally unmuting themselves only for the other students to be greeted with the cry of a younger sibling or strange music. It has been entertaining at times and we've all enjoyed it and it forms such a large part of life in lockdown.

Defoe was digging me in the ribs and chortling. He had found one which amused him – Gwenaelle's Plague Diary. "A mighty witty lady," he laughed...

Gwenaelle

23 March 2020

I have been advised to make a (completely realistic) daily routine for myself, to 'stimulate' the mind and prevent any form of procrastination. It involves getting up at 6 am, going on a 10 km run, making a smoothie full of spinach, avocados, carrots, cucumbers, and protein powder (etc. etc.), which, to be clear, will be the only form of breakfast; cooking lunch, and generally spending the rest of the day being extremely proactive. I suppose that won't be too difficult?

6th April

I cannot comprehend why everyone seems to think time is flowing by so slowly. I think it is quite the opposite: the school day feels a lot shorter. There is no moving between classrooms, minimal classroom disruption (although, I wouldn't mind that at the moment), and I am getting a lot more work done.

20th April

I had never heard of an app named 'Zoom' before, yet it now claims to offer the simplest path to videoconferencing in a pandemic. I am definitely rejoicing at the idea of being able to see some familiar faces; online school is becoming a little depressing. It has been 29 days, and I have never missed school this much.

27th April

I apologise profusely, but no, I am not switching my camera on, for the very simple reason that it looks like a small atomic bomb has exploded in my bedroom and I do not wish to make myself feel vulnerable to a multitude of (understandingly) judgemental looks. Feel free to turn yours on though!

15th May

Throughout these weeks of online school, there have been many advantages. One of the most important ones (according to me), alongside being able to participate in lessons while wearing pyjamas, is probably the ability to gather up any concoction of excuses and get away with them, solely on the basis that we are at home. This is why, inevitably, a range of excuses, mostly comprising of "Sir, my Wi-Fi isn't working," do come in useful from time to time, even if, arguably, the statement is true. However, I can proudly state that the one time I did use that excuse was because there was a power cut in the whole of High Barnet; although, of course, it decided to spare the house next to mine.

June 10th

Australian bushfires, missile launches, deadly plane crashes, a worldwide pandemic, murder hornets, diseases hidden in permafrost... could 2020 honestly get any worse?

We read on...



Photo by Rebecca Joss

Roberta

Monday, sometime in May... I have completely lost track of the days. They fall away, one by one, seemingly stretching out, but really just merging into a lump of time I will only remember the general gist of in a few years. I will remember a few singular moments, jutting out into my mind's eye, ready for manipulation and the inevitable refinement that comes with time. Today, I think one of these peculiar moments occurred.

The morning was overcast, grey clouds promising further gloom to the prospect of a day of revision in the company of a stressed and impatient family. Although, to be truthful with myself, I must admit that I am lucky with my fellow lockdown victims. My sister and I can avoid each other, yet still bond over the endless amounts of television ahead of us, a healthy balance of time together and time apart. So the day started early for me, with the last bowl of Crunchie Nut cereal as my breakfast, before I began to pick at my revision. A week ago, when I was not doing the revision myself, merely planning, I had ambitiously decided to spend a total of three hours working through unfinished algebra classwork. Now, I dreaded this. I have never previously done incredibly practical and efficient revision, which I can definitely say I regret now.

Luckily, my maths adventure came to an abrupt premature end when Mama came in to say good morning and discuss the plan for the day. To stay sane, she says, every day

must have a plan, some fun things, some less so, but a routine and varied activities would save us during quarantine. I had hoped a daily 'peculiar moment' would be the result of this plan, but it is always difficult to live up to previously set expectations. However, today the plan was something rather unique, as Sophie put it: today we were going to go to a garden centre.

The day went by quickly, the main snapshots I remember being the scratchy thorn of a young pale peach rose on my arm as I cradled it in the backseat of the car, this idea washing together with the sun irritating my eyes as I reached for the largest sack of acidified earth, apparently beneficial for a plant we had bought in the previous garden centre.

A different day for sure, something only lockdown could lend some excitement to for me. I enjoyed my mum showcasing her botanical research as we wandered through and the slight tan I got from actually being in the sun. Tomorrow I really need to catch up on the revision I missed today.

Sian

Though separated by government restrictions, communities came together on a Thursday. The weekly clapping became part of everyone's routine.

The rush up the stairs to the front door, the uncertainty of how long to clap for or how loud to be without receiving an eyeballing from neighbours. Glances seething with disapproval were cast at those doors that were not opened on the evenings where whooping and clapping filled the air. Like never before we felt the guilt and liability for those selfless, brave doctors who were risking the health and safety of themselves and their families to save lives.

Beyond the physical health crisis, we also became aware of the quiet but pernicious effect quarantines and isolation were having on mental health. Separated from everyday support systems, the escape those institutions provided and the comfort of seeing friends and colleagues meant that so many suffered and became overwhelmed by

being stuck at home, and continue to do so. The virus posed not only a physical threat but also one that would impact on mental safety. The pandemic has brought to light the cracks that haven't been discussed properly before: I hope that we will now consider how we can reach out more and how more infrastructure could be provided for those suffering at home.

This pandemic has undermined the concept of individualism and has shown how we cannot rely solely upon ourselves, but that we must rely on others, too, and look out for one another. Whether that means to provide a listening ear, arms to fall into or, more relevantly, to wash hands and wear masks.

We were lucky to have some contributions from Sixth Form pupils at The London Academy of Excellence. Princess writes...

Princess

Lockdown brought the Class of 2020 many things: as well as our personal struggles, which deserve the utmost sensitivity, it brought the odd reality of online lessons.

Instead of running up six flights of stairs to get to class, I was present as a black box on a screen at home. Instead of having a fine line between school and home, home became my school. And I remember the awkward times when my mum or dad would ask me to do something while I was in lessons.

'Weird' is definitely one word to describe the lockdown lessons, with their faceless boxes on a screen and the fear of what grades to expect in the summer. But I really enjoyed the easy access to lesson materials and direct help with my studies. Using an online platform made it easier for me to collaborate with peers and teachers in real time than it would have been in person. Honestly, lockdown really opened our minds to already existing methods of teaching and learning. But it also highlighted the huge educational and financial inequalities between many

young people and children in the UK.

Additionally, the pandemic helped me to value the little things in life which I didn't pay much attention to before, such as the 10-minute walk from my house to the station (I even missed sprinting up the stairs!). I missed being on the DLR, not the times when I was virtually trapped in someone's armpit, but definitely the human interaction without the fear of catching Coronavirus.

All in all, the Class of 2020 have been through a lot in our lifetimes: 9-1 GCSE reforms, A level reforms, cancelled A level exams, moderated grades and an A level exam results U-turn. And *still we rise!*

Contributions from the Old Cholmeleians

Finally, we looked at contributions from the Old Cholmeleians...

BUT DID YOU KNOW? 60 YEARS AGO YESTERDAY, The 17TH Modern Olympic Games started in ROME, and a Party from HIGHGATE SCHOOL was there! I was amongst them. We went by train from London, and we stayed for the duration in a Pensione run by nuns, in the middle of Rome somewhere, I think on the top floor of their nunnery. Unfortunately, I cannot remember who else was in the party, nor the teachers who accompanied us. Some of the highlights were the Opening Ceremony, seeing Cassius Clay box and a trip into the Olympic Village. This was organized by one of the Highgate members of our party, who had a connection with a famous rowing competitor in the GB Team. I had an autograph book, which I had made for the Olympics, and had collected a lot of autographs, including from Gordon Pirie and John Thomas, the USA high jumper. Who could forget a name such as that? Unfortunately, it disappeared during our stay, and I am still convinced that it was "Half Inched" by one of our group! If anyone knows anything about the autograph book, this is an appeal for its return!

Chris Colverd (GH 1956)

My experience of lockdown was a very different and unexpected one. I am a physiotherapist and was re-deployed into a very busy London Intensive Care Unit to work 13-hour Nursing shifts. I spent the four weeks sweating in full PPE, learnt a lot of new skills, and discovered the joy of eating a 3am chocolate egg (fuel to get me through the night shifts!).

Joanna Siddall (GH 2010)



Joanna Siddall in PPE.

Lockdown was not all happy-clapping for the NHS and jolly community projects. My friend and contemporary OC John Smallwood died of COVID-19 on 14th April 2020. It was a time of terrible sadness for his family and friends. Lockdown meant that his wife was unable to travel from Brazil to see him in hospital: just awful. Thousands of families went through similar heart-breaking situations. They continue to grieve, whilst we are happily recounting our experiences.

Paul Driver (FG 1961)

My wife and I are 87 and 88 respectively, and, while in reasonably good health, were thus expected to observe fairly strict quarantine restrictions. We found that this brought out the very best in people. We have quite a large family, but sadly no-one lives near enough to give us day-to-day help, so we had to rely on our friends and neighbours. They turned up trumps, none more so than a couple with two delightful children, completely unknown to us, who we encountered quite early on (on an illicit walk). They stopped to ask us out of the blue if we needed any help, and have effectively adopted us, doing our shopping and stopping off on family walks to ensure that we had some human contact, from the roadway. We have now started to ease back on our isolation, perhaps rather more than the official bossy-boots would approve, but we have reached the stage where we think: 'what the hell, we are not prepared to waste any more of the rest of our lives.'

Colin Walters (EG 1945)

Ispent lockdown putting a new roof on a cottage that I'm renovating next to our farm here in Devon. My youngest son Jack has just started a career in carpentry, having been burnt out writing reports for governments on climate change. It was a privilege to spend 10 weeks teaching him. I was constantly reminded of the gratitude I owe Don Bowles, who honed my own woodwork skills. Often, the more practical subjects get overlooked in the drive for university places, but throughout my life I've benefitted greatly from Don's teaching. Dexterity and an ability to visualise things in three dimensions have come in useful when I was (before retiring from General Medical Practice) operating on humans and, in my spare time, making furniture. I feel particularly strongly about practical skills and the importance of 'the trades' that technical colleges used to teach so well. No student at Highgate should let an opportunity to gain practical skills pass by. I hope the school still provides those opportunities.

James Hedger (FG 1968)

At the beginning of March, I had a week of feeling miserable but otherwise mostly fine. But then a number of other symptoms emerged, both well-known (e.g. sore throat) and less-known at the time: muscle cramps, raging thirst or a racing heart. I didn't have the cough or appear to have a temperature - even by then, thermometers had sold out - but I began to self-isolate. For the next six months, I had all of the symptoms now well-known to the long COVID cohort. Each appeared, usually on its own, then dissipated to be replaced by another. I kept working, but it was a struggle and output dropped. I did daily walks and numerous Zoom quizzes, which I tolerated. As a STEM Ambassador, my enhanced DBS check allowed me to volunteer for the council. I delivered food to a few people on the self-isolation list. It was great to feel useful and meet some neighbours. After six months, I was able to work nearly a full week and the chest pains had stopped. Then I went deaf. Strictly speaking, I got tinnitus first and then deafness. Initially in one ear, then two. By this point, I'd had a positive test as I'd volunteered to give convalescent plasma. My antibody level was too low, but the confirmation was some comfort. My hearing returned two weeks ago, and I feel normal - although that feels odd. I'm back in the office and adjusting to this current version of normal.

Merlin Goldman (EG 1983)

A Day in the Life of the Heritage Officer

David Smith

I became Heritage Officer, assisting Archivist Julia Hudson, upon retiring from thirty years of teaching physics in 2014. After being employed for two days a week for a few years, I now just help to ‘understand Highgate’s present by preserving its past’ for the equivalent of one day a week – and for over a year that work has been carried out remotely from my partner’s home near Caernarfon in North Wales.

Cerrig Pryfaid, the School’s Outdoor Centre, is about 15 miles away. On his retirement from Highgate in 1990, John Coombs, who had been Second Master from 1981, retired to Waunfawr (only about three miles away) and ran the Centre for ten years. Fuelled by a ‘full Welsh’ breakfast, I dig out my Stephen Spielberg hat. My first job, all the way back in the mid-1970s, had been at a small private high school in Manhattan and whilst living in New York, the Frick Collection on the corner of 5th Avenue and E 70th St was my favourite gallery. Shortly after the start of the first lockdown, they launched a series of enticing online films about items in their collection under the banner ‘Cocktails with a Curator.’ I thought that it might be fun to attempt something similar featuring objects in our School Museum, housed in the Tabernacle on Southwood Lane, and thus ‘Moments in the Museum’ were born. A bronze head of Yehudi Menuhin by Ivor Roberts-Jones and a cricket bat that groundsman-coach Albert Knight had used in an Ashes Test series in Australia were the subjects of the first two videos, and the third



Train at Kentish Town, Sir Kyffin Williams 1948

concerns a scientific paper that was kindly donated to the School by physicist Professor John Ellis (Cordell 1958), who spent most of his career at CERN in Geneva. All of the titles can be accessed from the Museum and Archive page on the School website.

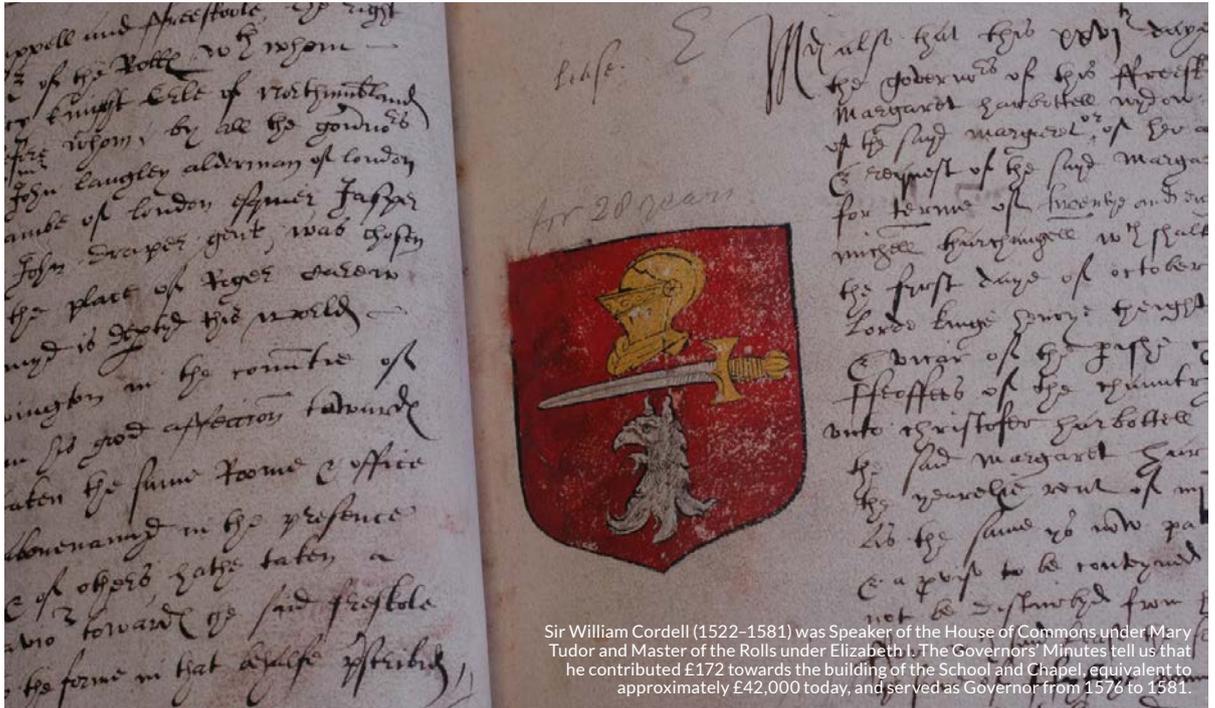
After a mid-morning panad (North Welsh for ‘cup of tea’), I turn my attention to planning the next ‘Night at the Museum’ event. These evening talks (one per term) are a slimmed down version of the ‘Mondays at the Mills’ programme that ran successfully for several years until 2019. Because of the closure of the School Museum caused by the pandemic, the last two lectures have been virtual affairs, with author Hugh Aldersey-Williams (WG 1971) telling us about his recently published biography of the 17th century Dutch physicist Christiaan Huygens in Michaelmas 2020 and Professor Emeritus Deri Tomos speaking about ‘Kyffin and Colour’ in the 13th annual Kyffin Williams Lecture in Lent of this year. Going online meant that a much larger and geographically more diverse audience could benefit – many of the 170 who watched Deri were in Wales,

and at least one had tuned in from the USA. Re-powered by a ploughman’s lunch consisting of local cheese (Dragon cheddar), it is time to answer a query from the Collections Manager at Oriel Môn on Anglesey, wondering whether I could help to pinpoint the scene depicted in a painting by Kyffin Williams that was up for auction at Sotheby’s. ‘Train at Kentish Town’ was painted in 1948, some four years into Kyffin’s twenty-nine at the School as Art Master, and my research trail led to Peter Darley, a retired civil engineer who founded the Camden Town Railway Heritage Trust and turned out to be a former Highgate parent. He suggested that the probable location of Kyffin’s easel had been on a bomb-damaged site by the side of Hawley Road as it curves around to pass under the railway and becomes Castlehaven Road, looking to the southeast. Interestingly, the picture – which was given an estimate of £4,000 to £6,000 – eventually sold for £37,800!

The day’s work done, it is time to tuck into a plate of Menai mussels, perhaps with a nightcap of Penderyn whisky.

Cordell

100 years since it all began



Sir William Cordell (1522–1581) was Speaker of the House of Commons under Mary Tudor and Master of the Rolls under Elizabeth I. The Governors' Minutes tell us that he contributed £172 towards the building of the School and Chapel, equivalent to approximately £42,000 today, and served as Governor from 1576 to 1581.

Sir William Cordell has been celebrated throughout Highgate's history. He is remembered for his contributions as a generous benefactor towards the building of the School and as Governor overseeing its development. All of this is commemorated by the Griffin's head from his family crest that grins at us from the School Shield. For members of Cordell House, though, the name means something more – friendship, sportsmanship, and the ghost of a Matron past!

In their farewell message to Mr and Mrs Silvanus in the Cholmeleian, Cordellians rued the loss of two great friends and, as the outpouring of memories from former Cordell members demonstrate, the appreciation of those people that looked after their wellbeing continued throughout the years.

"The memories are embossed into me as any memory is from those adolescent years. The name of the Head of House in 1959 who I called 'Sir' within minutes of arriving in Cordell. He seemed so old I thought he was a Master. The first talk to new boys from Colonel Alfie Field who [was] strongly advising all aspiring sportsmen to sing badly in the concert chorus audition so that one was rejected from choir and could instead play sports!" - Richard Brewster (1959 - 1962)

"Without question, my year as Head of House interfacing with Norris everyday was one of the most enjoyable of my life. We both wanted the best for Cordell but

I was just passing through as he served the House proudly for 10 years... He was always supportive and offered wise counsel. Contrary to the image he could create, it was rare not to be greeted with a warm smile. We were 'her boys' [Mary Ascherson, Norris Butcher's sister] and she took great interest in our wellbeing and was very proud of Cordell. I remained in touch with her until her death." - John Henderson (1967 - 1972)

Living conditions were less than perfect compared to today's standards. Peter Cansick (1959 - 1964)

describes the dormitories that slept 12 to a room with no central heating where "in winter the insides of the windows were frozen solid! Still, it was a good house to be in, and many friends were made." The boys did make the most of it and there were benefits as the pupils grew older.

"In winter the insides of the windows were frozen solid!! Still, it was a good house to be in, and many friends were made."

List of Cordell Housemasters

1921–1932	Harold Miles Silvanus
1932–1945	Stanley Percival Kipping (incl. 1939–1943 in <i>Westward Ho!</i>)
1945–1951	T. L. Twidell
1952–1962	A. Field
1962–1972	N. P. Butcher
1972–1977	Don Bowles



"In 1955, I was appointed Head Boy of Cordell House and Senior School Prefect. These appointments gave me three privileges: wearing a black jacket in place of the blue and red blazer, moving into the upper attic in Cordell House (a single bedroom that included a small private study area that I could use for homework, letter-writing and model-making), and walking on the right-hand side of Hampstead Lane when going to school." Richard Jesty (1950 - 1955) explains. He also learnt a lot about eating at Cordell:

"...There were always plenty of sausages, but the marmalade was sometimes in short supply. If you did not get in quickly, you did not get any, so we spread it onto the sausages. A recipe that I still cherish!"

Sports played a large part of the Cordell culture. In the early years, three Spaniards – brothers Enrique (1924 - 1928) and Eduardo Portu (1924 - 1929), and Javier Aguirre (1927 - 1929) – dominated the fives pitches, with Aguirre going on to win the Kinnaird Cup with Howard Fabian in 1930.

Ian Cave (pupil 1946 - 1951) recalls how both he and his brother John (pupil 1943 - 1948) were more successful on the games field than in the classroom, competing for Cordell in football, fives, cricket and athletics. Meanwhile, football Captain Julian Courtenay (1965 - 1970) remembers an epic House Football Final with School House. Dropping temperatures and bad light resulted in the unique outcome of sharing the trophy after a long-fought game: "It was a proud moment for me and all the Cordell House players in that game when Charles and I received the trophy together at a prize-giving ceremony in Big School, in front of the whole school."

During the 1970s, Cordell House enjoyed their 50th anniversary with former Housemasters and members gathering together for an evening of nostalgia. Sadly, however, the end of the decade signalled the closure of Cordell as a boarding House – as the trend for boarding dwindled across the country – leaving the final Housemaster Don Bowles to shut its doors. Here, he and his wife Ann share some of their recollections of life at Cordell.

"Often, one does not find out what actually happened in a boarding house until the pupils have actually left – and then they expose their misdemeanours when you meet up a year or two later. One such incident had occurred one night when I did my usual walk round the house, making sure all lights were out and doors and windows were locked. The boys had a television room in their Annexe. One night, one of the seniors was desperate to watch a late-night film so he turned off the TV and put out the light in the room. He then waited until he heard me coming round on my nightly check, climbed out of the window and hung on the outside windowsill and pushed it shut. I must have opened the door, put on the light, saw the windows closed (the window latch was broken and as it was an upstairs room the maintenance staff had not bothered to fix it), and off I went to bed. So the pupil was able to climb back in, watch his film and then sleep on the couch.

"My wife unwittingly caused some problems for some members of the House. The Annexe had a flat roof with an iron fire escape staircase down to the ground. Access to the roof from inside the house was via a large sash window halfway up the internal staircase. Quite often, going up to our bedroom a while after 'lights out' she would find the window unlatched, so would secure it. We will never know how many Cordellians she locked out! Probably more than a few. On the last night of every term, I would sleep on the floor of the landing where this window was situated so I knew no Cordell boys could join in with any end of term disruptive jaunts.



Cordell House Hannel Rifle team 1962

Front row: Richard Brewster, Geoffrey Morgan, James Fredenham, John Cryer, Roger Mortimer (also Highgate Junior School master and house master of Field House).
Back Row, Peter Searle and Richard Doggett.



Don Bowles with family at Cordell House, July 1974



Don and Ann visiting the Queen because of his long-standing service to Highgate

"During our time in Cordell, we had a Mini and a Lotus Elan Plus 2 that I had built from a kit. At one point I started getting phone calls because one of the boys had advertised the Lotus in the Evening Standard at well below its true value. I thought it was one of four senior boys who was responsible and, with the co-operation of one of the school secretaries, set a plan in motion. I told the boys that the Evening Standard recorded all calls and got them to each read the advertisement to the secretary so the newspaper could check if one of their voices matched the voice of the person who placed the advert. That ploy failed as no one cracked and I never found out who had placed the advert. Perhaps now if the guilty party reads this I may find out. No hard feelings – just part of the fun of being a Boarding House master!

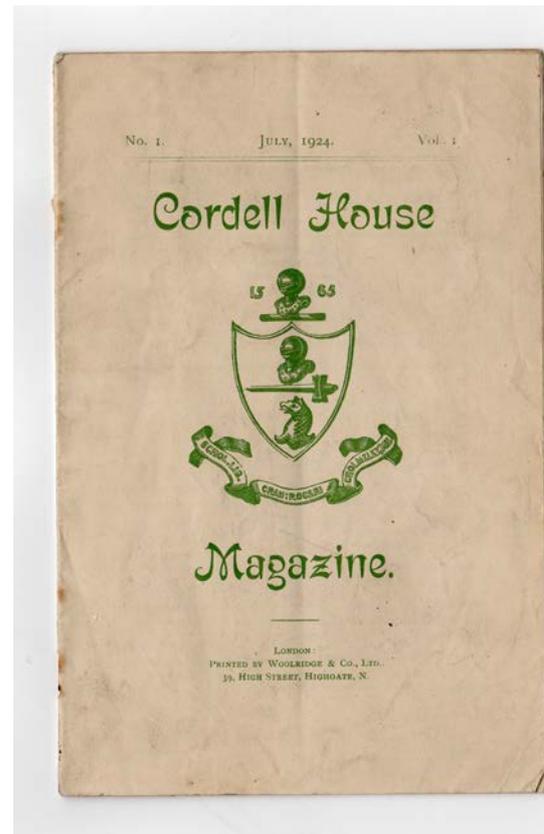
"Every Christmas near the end of term, all the boarding houses had a house supper in the Dining Hall, followed by 'entertainment' for their guests (members of staff and their partners) in the various Houses. Entertainment consisted of a series of skits, some funny, some rehearsed and some involving the guests. The fun and games used to go on until about 11pm or later and of course everyone was too excited to go to bed. So in Cordell we used to get the boys to expend their energy in the swimming pool across the road and finish at midnight or so. I remember the first year we did it the Head Master (Alfred Doulton) came over to the pool when he saw the lights on. I had to explain that Ann was a qualified life saver and the head of PE was one of our guests. Upon reflection I think I should have warned the Head Master, but he did not appear on the subsequent House Supper nights!

"At the end of every Michaelmas term we always had a Christmas tree in the entrance hall at the bottom of the stairs. One day, our youngest born girl, Victoria, was crawling about and got caught in the cable for the lights. In her struggle to get free she pulled the tree over, much to the amusement of the boys outside my study waiting to see me. Hearing the crash I rushed out and the boys said: 'Don't be cross with her; she didn't mean to knock it over.' We think the boys enjoyed having young children around.

"Teaching full-time and being a boarding house master was not easy, in spite of having a live-in matron. Most matrons kept strictly to their appointed hours and Ann had to cover the rest of the time. We did have a House Tutor who used to stand in on a Wednesday evening when we had four hours of freedom. We had storage heaters and a coal fired hot water system with a boiler in the basement. This was stoked by one of the school maintenance staff but I soon found out I was the one who had to shovel the coal into the boiler at weekends and relight it when it went out. Talk about being 'Jack of all Trades.'

"Rumour has it that a ghost exists in Cordell! It is alleged to be Miss Morton, who was a previous matron. While we never saw her when resident, we did have a few visitors tell us they had seen a shape or person on the stairs when they went to the toilet. Their remarks were unsolicited, so maybe her spirit is still there?

"Being responsible for the well-being of 42 boys with a few being weekly boarders was hard going, but overall it was very rewarding. We have many happy memories of the time we were 'imprisoned' in Cordell."



Cordell House magazine, 1924

The First Spark

John Thelwall at Highgate School



A forthcoming biography of the great democratic orator-hero, John Thelwall, will offer a glimpse into Highgate School at a little-known time in its history. “Citizen John,” who would become a “voice for the voiceless” at the turn of the nineteenth century, attended the school between the ages of 10 and 13 (1774–1777).

His memories were ambivalent at best; nevertheless its influence upon his development was transformative; laying the foundation of his radical political program as educator, performer and abolitionist.

Largely forgotten now, Thelwall was once notorious as a democratic activist and ‘maker of the English working class,’ who fought for constitutional reform and ‘the rights of man’ in England at the time of the French Revolution. He was a polymath, an influential poet (friends with Coleridge and Wordsworth), a journalist and orator. At the height of his political activity, for which he was imprisoned and tried for treason in 1794, Thelwall said: “It is better to be immur’d in a Bastille, than to have the Bastille in one’s mouth, to lock up the tongue from all communication with the heart.” Clever at using words and wit to stay one step ahead of the authorities, after his release he reoriented without betraying his values by inventing a new profession, that of liberating

the chained tongues of his fellow citizens as the world’s first speech therapist. Facing lifelong political persecution, he was an ‘up-and-down life’ of scandal and adventure; after his death in 1834, his reputation was tarnished and his papers lost. The discovery in 2004 of a massive part of his missing archive, a three-volume manuscript of his complete poetry, has contributed to a modern revival and enabled the writing of the first full Thelwall biography.

Born in 1764, Thelwall was an intensely creative child. Upon the death of his father, a Covent Garden silk merchant who had encouraged his son’s intellectual and artistic ambitions, the family’s fortunes plunged and John fell into depression, which lifted when he was sent to boarding school in Highgate. There, he recovered his “health and adventurous vivacity,” and became a kind of leader among his schoolfellows. Thelwall does not give the name of this “seminary” or its headmaster, but what he says matches



the little that is known about Highgate School in the late eighteenth century and its longest-serving headmaster (1746–78), the Rev. William Felton. Two letters written in Felton's hand in the school archives support Thelwall's memory of him as unexceptional, well-intentioned but weak-willed, and under the thumb of the governors, who by the 18th century were catering to many local needs and often neglected the education of the boys. By 1733, there were scarcely 25 scholars receiving an education despite there being places for 40. Felton spent considerable time trying to raise funds (and his own salary) by seeking boarders. Preoccupied by chapel business, however, he probably relegated most of the teaching to a number of tutors, unbeneficed clergymen.

One of those tutors, however, known only by the surname Harvey, proved a significant intellectual catalyst and mentor for Thelwall, even though he stayed for less than three months at Highgate School. In fact, he would be an inspiring teacher even today, and in that age of rote learning and "spare the rod and spoil the child," he was remarkable. According to Thelwall's poems and memoirs, Harvey "waked the first spark" of his intellectual life. Young and high-spirited, Harvey was full of "mirth instructive and friendly cares." Making himself a "conversational companion rather than an austere dictator," he "was remarkably lax in everything that looked like scholastic discipline" but "directed attention rather to multiplying the ideas, than cramping the limbs or overawing the faculties of his pupils." His most influential lesson for Thelwall, however, was his attention to the spoken word. Turning the schoolroom into a place for friendly conversation, he encouraged students to enquire, and formed them into discussion groups allowed to choose their own books. This later became Thelwall's own *modus operandi* in political, literary and pedagogical practice alike. Just as crucial was Harvey's attention to "the management of voice and lungs," anticipating elocutionary therapeutic methods that Thelwall would make his own, in which the languages of body, mind and heart are equal and interrelated. Thelwall came to the

school with a serious speech impediment and suffered painful attacks of asthma. The training he began with Harvey gradually led him to overcome both, so that by the time he was thirty, he was one of the most powerful orators in Britain.

It is likely that Harvey also stimulated the "rage for theatricals" that dominated Thelwall's adolescence and beyond. He remembers spending much of his recreational time at school in rehearsing plays, painting scenery, and making props, and he gathered his schoolfellows into "a sort of *corps dramatique*," with him as their leader. A highlight of his time at Highgate was when "he was allowed, at the age of thirteen, to play *Altamont*, to the *Fair Penitent* of a young lady of his own age, at a ladies' boarding school in the neighbourhood" (likely the girls' school established in 1722 in almshouses on Southwood Lane). This is rather a jaw-dropping revelation, given the scandal caused by young men and women together performing home theatricals in Jane Austen's *Mansfield Park*. Granted, that was some 40 years later, and moral attitudes may have been more lax in the 1770s, when the fashion for amateur theatricals was in its first flush. Nevertheless, it is surprising that an eighteenth-century school would allow such gender-mixing, especially among 13-year-olds, and even more so while playing *The Fair Penitent*, a daring "she-tragedy" about sexual infidelity and seduction. It is slightly more understandable, however, considering that the author of the 1715 play, Nicholas Rowe, was perhaps the first notable alumnus of Highgate School. A Restoration playwright and poet laureate, Rowe's reputation was impeccable, and *The Fair Penitent* was staged to both critical and popular acclaim throughout the eighteenth century.

The Fair Penitent is known today for introducing Lothario as the name of a stereotype seducer, and as a major influence on sentimental novels like Samuel Richardson's monumental *Clarissa*, whose title character is based on Rowe's "penitent" Calista. Calista is an unusual and, in some ways, a proto-feminist heroine who both conforms to and smashes conventional gender boundaries in her unapologetic

expression of sexual desire and her agency. Calista remains both heroic and sympathetic as she claims masculine power to define and defend her own honour in the wake of her seduction, even as this hastens her death. No doubt she contributed to Thelwall's lifelong attraction to strong, outspoken women, and to the flurry of poems and romances he produced over the next 10 years, championing seduced women, and critiquing the morally questionable men who fail them.

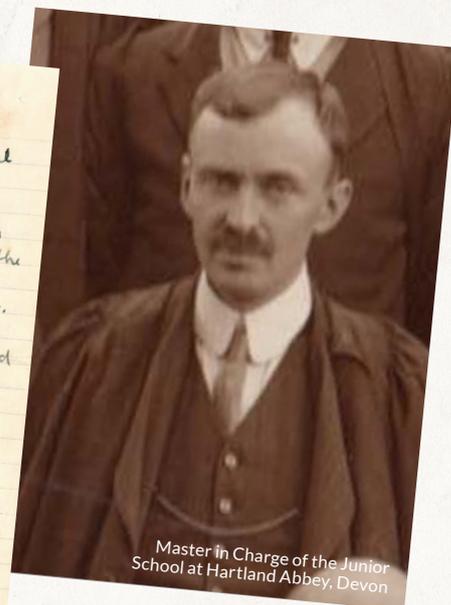
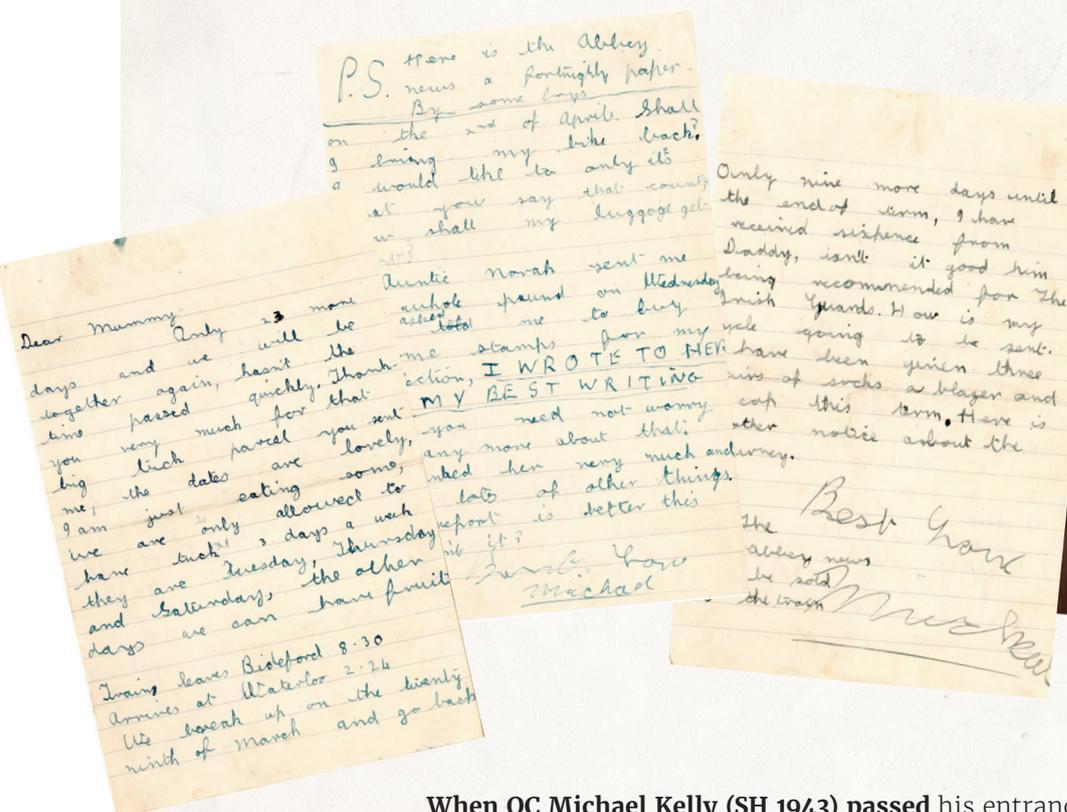
An even more intriguing connection between Highgate and Thelwall's feminism is the possibility that he may have seen, and most certainly would have known about, Dido Belle, the mixed-race Creole great-niece whom the Earl of Mansfield adopted in 1765. One of Thelwall's heroes, Mansfield was one of the governors of Highgate School; his Kenwood estate was less than a mile away and Thelwall recalls rambling through its woods. Since Mansfield rented pews for his household in the school chapel, it is likely that he and his family would have attended some of the same services that the boys regularly did. Elegant, animated, and roughly Thelwall's age, Dido Belle would certainly have fascinated him; though far above him in social class, she would have been an object of local gossip. Under these circumstances, it is probable that Highgate School contributed to the fervent abolitionism that Thelwall developed in his later teens, which turned him into a radical well before the French Revolution. It is also likely that it influenced his 1801 feminist-abolitionist novel *The Daughter of Adoption*, whose title character, a cultured and assertive Creole of uncertain heritage (like Dido Belle crossed with Mary Wollstonecraft), travels from the West Indies to England at the outbreak of the Haitian Revolution (which Thelwall treats sympathetically). There, she ends up reforming the slave-owning patriarchy, articulating a strong anti-colonial message that uncannily anticipates BLM and current debates in its astute analysis of the intersections of gender, race and class.

Like his *The Daughter of Adoption*, Thelwall's voice rings through the ages, and still has much to teach us; he deserves recognition as one of the most distinguished alumni of Highgate School.

Judith Thompson

Professor of English
Dalhousie University
Halifax, Nova Scotia

Letters from a Second World War Evacuee



When OC Michael Kelly (SH 1943) passed his entrance exam for Highgate Junior School in July 1939, little did he know that in September he would be starting school, not in Highgate, but in Devon, and as a Second World War evacuee.

His letters home, written between September 1939 and March 1943, are part of a larger donation of Michael's school memorabilia received recently by Highgate School Archive. The 150 letters tell the story of Highgate's evacuation to Devon. They are a window into the past, transporting the reader back in time...

The date is September 1939, and Highgate Junior School is readying itself for evacuation to the West Country. A convoy of coaches on Bishopswood Road in Highgate sets off on its journey to Devon. The youngest boys are dropped off at Slade House in Bideford and at Sunset House in Westward Ho! The coaches then travel another 15 miles to Hartland Abbey, where the older boys disembark.

For many of them, this was the first time they had been away from home in their lives, and all had arrived without any real understanding of why they were there.

Michael, one of the youngest at 8 years old, was part of a small contingent who stayed at Slade House for a couple of weeks. His letter to his mother dated 3 September 1939 records his feelings about his new home: "We are having a very nice time in Slade House...we sleep on camp beds...the food is very nice and the beds are quite comfy... there are still a few boys to come..." By mid-September, he had moved to Sunset House, which, he remarks, "is not as nice as Slade House."

By the Michaelmas term of 1940, he was old enough to move to Hartland Abbey, a grand stately home owned by the Stuckley family, who, a year earlier, had moved to the Abbey's lodge to accommodate the evacuees. The Abbey's ornate rooms had been turned into dormitories and classrooms, and the formidable Onfrey Dumaresq was in charge.



Michael Kelly, pupil 1939-1949

Michael's first impressions would have been of a very large house set in grounds that were big enough to be a public park. He would have seen peacocks roaming the gardens, birds very few London boys would have seen outside a zoo. Michael wrote to his mother soon after his arrival: "It is much nicer than the guest house... the dorms have got names, ours is Flying Scotsman, and there are nine boys in it."

Despite the changes of accommodation, which would make any young boy feel apprehensive, Michael maintains a positive note throughout his letters. There is a sense of him being brave for his mother. He never says he misses her or home, but the reader gets a sense of how he is feeling as he counts down the days until the end of each term. Only twice does he let his guard down by saying he hopes she is not lonely and: "It was nice speaking to you yesterday, it was almost as if we were together again".

Before the war, Highgate's parents had been issued with a notice listing the items their children should take to Devon. Michael, like the other evacuees, was allowed just one suitcase containing two blankets, two changes of underwear, shorts, jumper, socks, one pair of shoes, cutlery, schoolbooks and a gas mask. As the weeks went by, and the realisation set in that evacuation was for longer than they had initially thought, the boys began asking for more and more of their belongings from home. Michael asks his mother to send him his camera, his bicycle, his dressing gown and slippers, his watch, and his toys, especially his Meccano and dinky toys. He also requests comics and stamps for his stamp collection.

The letters record very little about lessons and a great deal about activities outside school hours, as you might expect from any child. Michael was a scout and the troop was far from conventional, being involved in

aircraft spotting, Morse code and firefighting. When his camera arrives, he becomes an amateur photographer, taking photographs of his surroundings. He also enjoyed cycling, boxing, cricket and football, and swimming in the sea. Film shows and concerts kept him entertained and contributing to the Junior School's paper, Abbey News, allowed this budding writer to show off his skills. Michael also acquired some pets: caterpillars and butterflies at first, then moving up to rabbits. From his letters it seems that Michael had a happy time at the Abbey, but the war never seemed far away. He worried about his father, who was called up to fight, and voices his concern to his mother when he hasn't received a letter from him in a few days. He also writes about the mining of Pebble Ridge, military exercises in Hartland and fire watching on the Abbey's roof.

Michael's time at Hartland came to an end on 28 July 1941. From September, the Junior School was to join the other evacuees at Westward Ho!, and occupy Buckleigh Place. In the last week of term, preparations became frantic. Everything except an overnight bag had to be packed into trunks, sandwiches had to be prepared for the journey and pocket money had to be spent!

In early 1943, the decision was taken by Highgate's Governors to bring the evacuees back to Highgate. At Westward Ho! the School's property was collected together, which included gardening equipment, games equipment, blackboards, tables, desks, beds, books, chairs, and countless other items. In all it took nine days to load the School's property onto 21 railway containers and three vans. The convoy, plus pupils and schoolmasters, went on their way.

12
Dear Mummy and Daddy Sunday
I've Christmas
drawing near now, only
25 more days until Christmas
day and only 15 more until I
shall be seeing you. We
are all looking forward to
the house supper, at the
end of term, I expect it
will be the same sort of thing
as we had at sunset.
Thank you for dove and
Elin and for the
chocolats it is very nice
and very nice. The weather
is very bad these days
and it gets very wet and

2
If anything goes
wrong our dorm are having
a fight we are all going
to contribute a little more
towards it and have it
at the end of term. We had
a very long walk after
church we went to speak
and then we set across
about a mile altogether.
We are having only one
more cinema show, but
I expect it will be a good
one. We often go out
on the roof of the abbey
at night it even such you

3
I was
out with two boys I got
quite excited, especially when
we all saw something
white. I looked
just like a monkey
figure, then everybody
started talking about it
some started saying it might
be a... of the
parachute of a German
propagandist, just then
we had left and
get ready to wash when
we all got back into our
dorm we started talking

4
I then a
boy called Tony pushed
up two hair brushes
and he had hit the top
with a hairbrush, then
went along a semi circle
conviction (and), a boy called
at the end of the row and on
him from behind a sofa
and he jumped sky high
the next morning we
went up again to find
it was a bit of plastic
on the side of the chest
bottle necks so all
trouble from nothing
and we were as well and

5
I got all stony and don't
get all frightened
Best love
Michael

1950 School Ski Trip to Obergurgl

John Burren (FG 1953) remembers...



Obergurgl in 1950. The Gasthaus zum Curaten is the building in the middle foreground.

I first went skiing with a Highgate School party to Obergurgl during the Easter Holiday of 1950. At that time, skiing was still a rather esoteric holiday activity. Because of the war, the technology and status of the sport had made no advance since the 1930s, and there was as yet no hint of the mega-industry that skiing would later become.

The skiing holidays, one of the great unsung attractions of the school, were organised by Dr Herxheimer (Hx), the school doctor, and the first holiday had been in 1947. This was a trip to the Berghaus Tannalp near the high remote village of Frutt am Melchsee south of Lucerne in Switzerland. Frutt then, and probably even now, could only be reached in winter by cable car. The holiday in 1949 had been to Pontresina, again in Switzerland, in a year when there was very little snow. Holidays to Obergurgl (1950), Cervinia/Breuil (1951), and Saas-Fee (1952) followed.

Below I have described what I can remember from the trip to Obergurgl. In reading this, it should be remembered that life in the UK in 1950 was dominated by the aftermath of war, with food and clothes rationing still very much in force!

The Journey

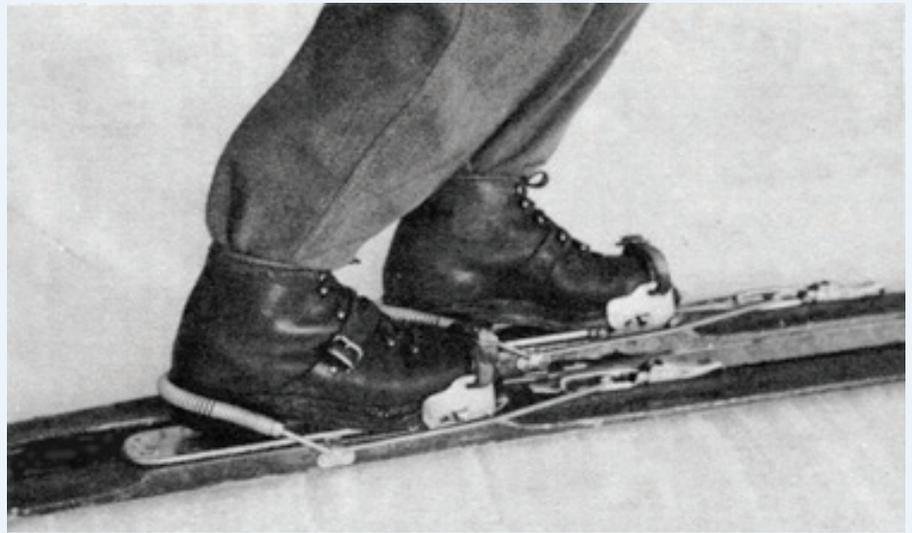


The Gasthaus zum Curaten.

The Easter skiing party always left school after assembly on the last day of term. In the days before mass air travel, the Alps were reached via coach to a channel port, a channel ferry, and a night train across France. That year the party numbered about 30.

There was a minor crisis when our coach was held up crossing the South Downs; London and the South having had a quite heavy late fall of snow the previous night. However, the driver managed to get through to Dover in time to catch the ferry, and we arrived safely in Calais in the late afternoon. The night journey to Basel was always a wretchedly uncomfortable experience. France was then still in the steam train era. The train was full, and we were eight to a compartment. It was impossible to keep the temperature reasonable. If the window was up, we roasted; if it was down, we froze. During the night there were several stops, with much coming and going of passengers. Night train rides seemed to be very popular in France.

Next came a short but more comfortable stage from Basel to Zurich by electric train, then, from Zurich, the Arlberg Express and back to steam. By this time, our three ski instructors, Birger, Frank and Peter, had joined the party. In 1950 Austria was still split into four zones administered by the British, French, US, and Soviet military. One of the few pieces of memorabilia that I have from the trip is a military permit to enter Austria, excluding the Soviet zone and Vienna. This is stamped with entry at Feldkirch on the first of April 1950. The formalities at the border took about an hour, which gave us time to buy a frankfurter



Kandahar ski bindings.

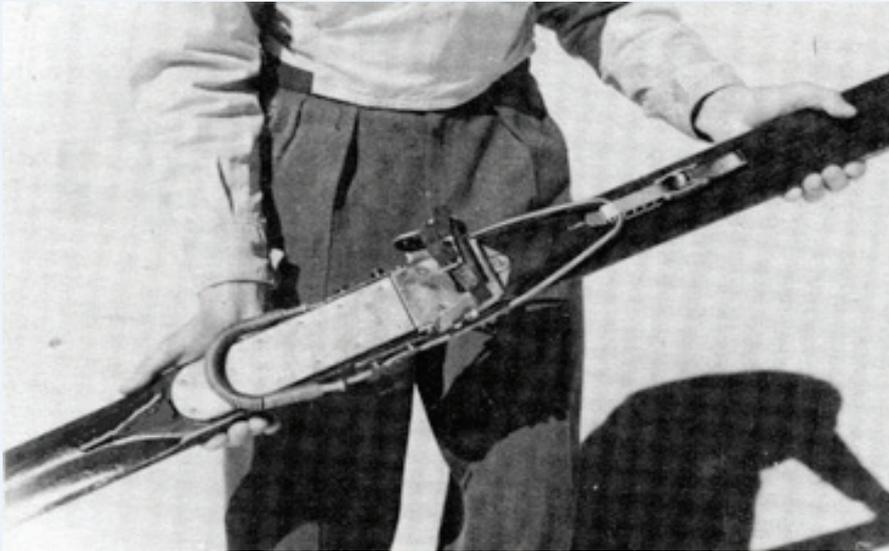
‘mit Senf’ on a large hunk of bread from a station vendor - delicious after more than 18 hours in a train. We left the train at Landeck in mid-afternoon for a short ride in a small local train to Ötztal station. From there, we started by coach up the Ötztal on what we thought was the last stage of our journey. After somewhat more than an hour of steady climbing up the valley, the coach stopped at a small village. It was about 6pm on a pleasant sunny evening. But, alarmingly, here in the mountains, there was no sign of snow. Would there be any skiing? Our teacher and our ski instructors got out for a discussion with some locals who had met the coach. He returned to announce that the coach couldn't go any further and that we would have to walk the rest of the way. The luggage would be taken up later by land rover. We knew that we had reached the village of Solden, but didn't know that Obergurgl was more than 10 kilometres further up the valley and 500 metres higher!

We set off on a zig-zag path up the hillside, hopeful that we would soon reach snow. Of course, at the brow the path just continued on. It was fortunate, as we were only wearing ordinary shoes, that when we finally reached the snow line it was dark and the slush had frozen. We trudged on in the dark and cold, but at least we had reached snow. Then a light appeared in the distance. False alarm. When we reached it, it turned out to be a single light outside one of a few wooden houses with no other signs of life. We were told that this must be Untergurgl. How far was Obergurgl? No one knew (we actually still had about three kilometres to walk). At last, the outline of a church and some buildings appeared; we

had reached Obergurgl. A door opened and we tumbled from the cold and dark straight into the Stube of the Gasthaus Zum Curaten. The light, heat, and smell were almost overwhelming, particularly the smell: a heady mixture of pine from the panelling, alcohol, and cigar smoke, all heated up. It was 9pm but in no time, this being Austria, we were ushered into the dining room for a substantial dinner.

The Equipment

The hotel produced skis and boots for us. The skis were wooden, but with metal edges, thin strips of steel screwed into grooves cut along the edges of the underside of the ski. To find skis of a suitable length, the arm was raised straight above the head, and the ski was supposed to reach the wrist. The main problem with the skis was that the area of the sole between the edges was either bare wood or painted and snow stuck easily to this surface. The solution was to wax the skis with silver wax before skiing downhill. The bindings were of the Kandahar type (see picture above). The boots were essentially leather mountain-walking boots with a groove cut in the heel to take the spring at the back of the binding. The binding is shown in the closed position. Lifting the lever in the front opens the binding, pushing the heel spring backwards. This allows the boot to be placed into the toe iron and the spring into the heel groove. The lever is then pushed forward, and the cable of the binding jams the toe of the boot into the toe iron, and thus clamps the boot to the ski. On each edge of the ski, level with the front of the heel, is a hook. If the cable of the binding is placed under these hooks, the heel is pulled down onto the ski, the position required for



Kandahar ski bindings.

downhill skiing. If the cable is not passed under these hooks, the heel of the boot can lift off the ski and walking on the skis becomes much easier. Overall, the bindings worked well. Their major weakness was a total absence of any safety features. Another not so serious problem was that the ski-stop had not yet been invented and, if by chance a ski did come detached, there was a high probability that it would race off downhill and be lost. In situations where the loss of a ski would be really dangerous, the ski binding was attached to the leg by a strap.

Ski sticks were cane poles with a leather strap at the top. A snow ring was attached to the pole by leather spokes at the bottom to prevent the pole sinking into the snow (this type of ski pole appears often in cartoon drawings of skiers). Another important item of equipment was skins. These were long strips of material that could be strapped to the underside of each ski for climbing uphill. The skins had a fur-like surface, artificial in our case, arranged so that the ski would slide forwards easily but not slip backwards. Originally it was proposed that, for climbing, we used a sticky wax that prevented sliding. In theory this wax could be rubbed smooth for the downhill run. This just didn't work out and after the first day we bought ourselves skins (I still have mine in my loft).

The problem with clothing was not its motley appearance but temperature control: one was invariably too hot or too cold. The only way of dealing with this problem was to bring extra clothing and wear it or carry it as appropriate (fortunately, this problem has long since been solved by modern ski clothing). The goggle solution was much better. We had rather flimsy plastic goggles

bought, I guess, from suggestions in the instruction sheet. These were cheap and quite effective.

The sun was a problem. It was dangerous. It was April and the slopes are at a height of over 2000 metres and in those days there were huge fields of pristine snow reflecting the sun. I suspect the danger was greater then, as the air was much clearer than it would be now. Our instruction sheet recommended a white paste, I think called Fissan paste, for protection. This was horrible to use, particularly when mixed with the perspiration generated climbing uphill and most of us bought newer and more pleasant concoctions from the local shop.

Skiing

Obergurgl had no uphill transport, not even a nursery button tow and, of course, there were no pistes. However, Obergurgl at 1900 metres is a very high resort base and even in April there was plenty of good snow and very few people to spoil it! Each day, since we were staying full board and returned to the hotel for lunch, there were two sessions of skiing. For each session we divided into three groups, each with an instructor. We would then walk up on skis to a training area chosen by the instructor and learn and practice some skiing manoeuvre. We would end the session with a run back to the hotel. As people learnt the rudiments of skiing, the training areas moved away from the hotel, and we started to enjoy the thrill of downhill skiing.

As people began to master the traverse and managed to string together a few snowplough turns, some training sessions were turned into mini tours. My memories

are of slopes of virgin snow without tracks or markers and no people, except possibly one of our other parties with their instructor. Uphill, we took it in turns to lead the line of our party. Making a trail was hard work, as one often sank more than a foot into the snow. Reaching the top, a few minutes rest then skins were removed, and silver wax applied to the soles of the skis. Then skis back on, with the binding cables clipped down, and off downhill. The slopes weren't entirely empty. We visited the mountain huts at Hohe Mut and Schönwies several times and here did come across the odd party of two or three other skiers.

During the three weeks, there were many sunny days, but we also had plenty of snow, ranging from the cold fluffy stuff to the big wet flakes of spring snow. This gave rise to the gamut of snow conditions, from glorious powder to the dreaded breakable crust, as well as the wet stuff. I remember Hx remarking, after a rather tall boy had fallen, that he looked as if he was taking a bath, such was the size of the crater made in the soft snow. I also remember practising side slipping on breakable crust. Not to be recommended!

Learning to ski on skis that are essentially two six-foot plus planks of wood is not easy, and not to be compared with the modern equivalent with much shorter skis carefully shaped out of hi-tech composites of plastic and metal. These wooden skis were quite unforgiving and incorrect actions in manoeuvres normally resulted in a tumble into the snow. However, we had good instructors, the snow was soft, and we enjoyed ourselves thoroughly!



What are friends for?

It became clear at the end of the Second World War that many families with children at Highgate were struggling. A number of very distinguished members of the school community rallied support and the Friends of Highgate School Society was formed, with its principal aim being, initially, to provide financial support for those boys whose fathers had been killed in the war.

Amongst those luminaries were Sir Geoffrey Shakespeare, after whom the steps leading up to the library were named; Sir Frank Alexander, the then Lord Mayor of London; and Sir Robert Clark, whose obituary describes the most heroic of lives (well worth Googling). The initial response to their campaign to raise funds was so successful that, in addition to helping those families in immediate need, the Friends were able to fund the Memorial Gates, and the Memorial Cross as well as a Book of Remembrance recording the sacrifices of the 170 OCs who lost their lives in the war, which can be found in the Chapel to this day.

Funds were raised on an ad hoc basis down the years, supplemented by two generous OC bequests. The aims were broadened; the Friends became a charity. Its activities were monitored by a Council consisting of 14 members of the Society. Prudent management meant that the invested funds were sufficient to enable the Friends to offer support to the majority of those who sought assistance. The much-loved Theodore Mallinson had a magical ability to encourage donations from all; it was not easy to say no to him.

With Theodore's passing in 2008, at the grand old age of 99, and with the recognition of the need to put the Friend's finances on a more secure footing, it was fortuitous that an OC, John Arnold, had become the Chairman in 1994. He was a key figure in the story of the Friends until his retirement in 2013. John

had tragically lost his father when he was but a 14 year-old student at the School. He was himself supported by the Friends. He went on to become a partner at Deloitte. He is now to be found enjoying life on Orkney, far from the excitements of North London. Some of those who served on the Council at that time remain central to the work of the Friends: John Zani is one of those, and still enthusiastically seeking new ways in which the Friends may remain relevant in the life of the school, where he too was once a pupil.

In 2011, at John's instigation and with the vital support of the Headmaster, Adam Pettitt (and Richard Kennedy before him), along with the Governors, parents were first given the opportunity to contribute what was thought to be a relatively modest sum to the Friends when the termly fees invoices were despatched. It is wonderful to record that the vast majority of parents did take the opportunity to support our work, and continue to do so. The termly contribution has enabled the Friends to fund a senior school bursary, alongside our core work. We have also been able to fund a mentor at at The London Academy of Excellence Tottenham, to help students with their university applications.

The generosity of so very many parents has come into its own during the pandemic: the Friends, in ordinary times, have made grants to the value of about £50k per term, on average. Over the last year, we have supported families to the tune of £550k,

selling part of our invested funds to be able to do so. This is the result of the huge increase in requests for help, as many people across a wide range of occupations have found their income reduced dramatically, in some cases to practically nothing. All have been considered with care and sensitivity by a small group within the Friends, answerable to the Council. We have been supported by our tireless secretary, Stephen Bovey (who took over the role following the retirement of the formidable Mark Short) and by our most capable and prudent treasurer, Pippa Rothenberg. We owe them heartfelt thanks for their hard work and commitment. All give of their time and expertise entirely voluntarily.

The Friends have been able to assist all those who have found themselves in genuine need as a result of the pandemic, helping them to get through these stormy waters, and, crucially, to keep their children safe and secure at Highgate. We cannot of course maintain this level of support indefinitely, but we will do our best to support pupils to complete their next key stage at the school.

The Friends operate independently of the School, and without the support of parents and OCs, we are nothing.

May I thank all of you for your kindness and generosity, particularly in these most challenging of times.

John Dodd QC

Chair of the Friends of Highgate School

Junior School Bursaries

An exciting step!



On 5 March 2020, over 270 guests gathered in a transformed Junior School hall for a Fundraising Gala, hosted by Doctor Who actor Jodie Whittaker. The Gala raised over half a million pounds in support of our aims to introduce Bursary places into our Junior School. Mere weeks later, schools were closed, and we were in lockdown.

Over a year later, while thoughts of a packed Junior School hall now seem very far away, we're delighted by the fact that bursary places in our Junior School are drawing ever closer!

As you may know, for the first time in our history we will expand our bursary programme so that children aged 7 will be able to benefit from a Highgate education.

This builds on the bursary places we currently offer in our Senior School. 90 pupils receive means-tested financial assistance; this is 7% of Senior School pupils. Introducing bursaries in the Junior School is the most impactful and sustainable way to increase our bursary provision across the entire school.

Offering bursaries at this point takes advantage of our fantastic Junior School site and means that the impact on children's learning and development will be transformational. Providing bursaries upon

entry to Year 3 will permit us to work with bright pupils from an earlier age, allowing them a greater chance to benefit from the academic opportunities Highgate offers.

Moreover, we know that bursaries benefit the entire school: we all want our children to leave Highgate with the ability to contextualise their advantage and relate well to others, irrespective of their background. Bursaries make our School more representative of the community we serve – and more representative of the world beyond Highgate.

Over the past year, a Bursary Working Group, formed of senior staff across the Junior and Senior Schools, reviewed our current Senior School provision and made recommendations for improvements. They also made suggestions for how we will implement 7+ bursaries, given the inherent differences between Junior School and Senior School bursaries.

As part of this work, the BWG considered factors such as: attracting candidates (whilst

maintaining our good relationships with local primary schools); assessing potential (and ensuring parents are supported to navigate the process); wrap-around care; and academic, pastoral and financial support for these seven-year-olds and their families.

We will be offering a range of bursary awards, from 100% of the school fees on a sliding scale down to 50%, with a primary focus on the children of key workers: nurses, police staff and ambulance service crew, about whom many of us have thought more in the past year than ever before.

We are excited to introduce these places, and mindful of the culture we all want these families to be brought into; welcoming, tolerant and mindful of each other's differences. We believe that the opportunities that this will afford for families who receive a place could be life-changing, and we know for sure that having a more diverse, and inclusive community, will be of benefit to us all.

Emily Clarke
Development Director

Testimonial from a former bursary recipient

Charles, Class of 2019

I joined Highgate at 11+ in 2012 and am currently a second-year student studying economics at the University of Warwick. I come from a single-parent household (with my mum and younger sister who is currently at Highgate) and went to a very normal primary school in Hornsey.

As a child, I didn't think much about my background. I did well at primary school, and my headteacher encouraged me to sit the exams for a bursary place at Highgate. However, when the conversation about private school came up with peers, I remember friends and their parents saying things like "people like us never end up in places like that," or "you're not going to fit in."

Through the application process and even after I accepted my place, these preconceptions were really sown into my mindset and made me apprehensive about joining; I had very rigid expectations about the kind of people I would come across and the experience I would have.



Every child should have the opportunity to achieve their full potential. If you have the academic intelligence (which many of my peers from primary school had, and yet still didn't apply to places like Highgate, purely because of these assumptions), your background doesn't matter. This is why extending the bursary initiative to Junior School pupils is so important - because at that age, having fun and building friendships is what matters.

Highgate really pushes you to be the best you can be and, in comparison to my peers at other schools, it became very clear to me that from an earlier age I was more driven to attain the best for myself.

I cannot emphasise enough how important and integral the bursary system is in providing people like me with opportunities changes the lives of me and my family. Through going to Highgate, I believe I'm much more open-minded than I would have been if I didn't, and this is something I am very grateful for.

Key facts

When will Junior School Bursaries be introduced?

2022: this has not been impacted by the pandemic, but rather takes into account the need for preparation.

How many bursaries will be offered?

In the first instance, four full-fee equivalent places will be offered per year, though these awards will be split over more pupils, to ensure there are more than four pupils in each year group.

How much will the awards be for?

It is our intention that bursaries will cover 50%-100% of the fees, making the opportunity to receive a bursary more accessible to a wider group of academically able children. At its full capacity, our Junior School bursary programme will support 16 full-fee equivalent places in the Junior School, at a cost of around £500,000 each year.

Highgate is here

Events

Although we weren't able to gather together in person, our varied series of online events helped OCs stay connected (and stave off boredom!) during the lockdown of 2021.

OC Festive Quiz

The first of our online events was the OC Festive Quiz, featuring familiar faces from Highgate as guest quizmasters, including current and former teachers such as John Lewis, Simon Brunskill, Karen Norris and Vicky Stubbs. OCs tuned in from home to show off their knowledge, both general and Highgate-related, and amused us all with their team names – with Cholmeley's Chums as one of the most memorable - though thankfully not for their answers!

After such a successful inaugural online OC event, we continued remotely with a series of online talks and Q&As featuring OC speakers from all around the world.

An Evening with Michael Mansfield

Our next guest was renowned human rights barrister **Michael Mansfield** (MG 1954), who shared wisdom and passion about his chosen profession of 55 years with an audience of over 200 enthralled OCs and pupils of Highgate and partner schools. Michael spoke eloquently on a variety of topics ranging from the dangers of fake news, to the environment, to mental health, as well as his experiences in the field of law. Michael's inspiring words to young people in the audience were: 'The only reason I'm here is because I have enormous faith in the next generation and in humanity.' Inspirational, indeed!

A Life in Film

Our first online guest was actor **Freddie Highmore** (EG 2010) – star of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, Finding Neverland and The Good Doctor. Recent leavers **Hugo Lloyd-Williams** (NG 2019) and **Ella Lane** (QG 2019) did an excellent job of moderating the Q&A, gaining a fascinating insight from Freddie into his career in Hollywood and television, live from The Good Doctor's filming location in Vancouver. Freddie was a true professional and gave grounded and practical advice about the acting profession – demonstrating that even in unusual times, the show must go on!

A Passion for Business Recovery, Opera and Spurs

The next talk was a Q&A with **David Buchler** (GH 1964), a corporate recovery specialist. Following a warm introduction from OC President **Richard Brewster** (CH 1959), pupils, OCs and parents watched the former CEO of Mothercare, **Greg Tufnell** (NG 1975), **Louis Pettitt** and **Tabitha Tucker** (both WG 2020) interview David about his career as a business recovery specialist and his ties to football and his lifelong passion, opera. David spoke with nostalgia about his memories of music at Highgate, as well as his optimism for the future of live music and opera.

Fútbol España

From Bishopswood to the Bernabéu

Real Madrid commentator **Phil Kitromilides** (EG 2001) joined **Alberto Fraquelli** (TL 2005) and **Nina Sorensen** (KG 2008) to tell us about his career as a football television broadcaster. Phil's relaxed enthusiasm charmed the audience as he spoke about his day-to-day life in Spain, secrets of Real Madrid and what it was like to encounter some of his football heroes – as well as offering advice for young sports fans on getting into his line of work. A true commentator, Phil had an interesting and in-depth answer for every question!

A Career in Medicine

Skilfully moderated by health-tech entrepreneur **Golnoush Golshirazi** (WG 2010), this event allowed prospective and current medical students to find out everything they needed to know about studying medicine, applying for a medical degree and the early stages of a medical career. The panel featured OCs at various stages in their medical careers sharing their wisdom: **Ben Reed** (EG 2015), **Ally Jaffee** (SG 2014) and **Simon Fleming** (WG 2001). The panel gave an excellent insight into their experiences of the sector at a particularly turbulent time.

From Concept to Cinema

Hosted by **Charlotte Holtum** (KG 2013), **Zygi Kamasa** (QG 1983) and **Hazel McKibbin** (SG 2011) told us with expertise and enthusiasm about the end-to-end process of making a film: Hazel from the perspective of a young filmmaker at the very beginning of a successful career (having just made her directorial debut at Sundance Film Festival!), and Zygi from the viewpoint of a veteran of British film production, with smash hits under his belt including *Bend It Like Beckham* and *La La Land*. Audience questions ranged from the inside scoop on Hollywood celebrities to the future of streaming services and filming technology.

Night at the Museum

13th Annual Kyffin Williams Lecture: Kyffin and Colour

Sir Kyffin Williams RA taught art at Highgate from 1944-73. He is remembered now as one of Wales's best-loved artists. This talk by Deri Tomos, Professor Emeritus at Bangor University, explored the relationship between physics and the sensation of colour in nature, and how Kyffin's work may have been impacted by variation in the human perception of colour. The event was enthusiastically attended by parents, OCs and art lovers.

Will-writing information Morning

Will writing, trust funds and legacy gifts

Charlotte Baden-Powell from Streathers Solicitors returned to Highgate (though this time, virtually) to deliver an information morning on Will-writing and estate management. OCs and Highgate parents alike joined us for this highly informative event and to receive impartial expert advice on how to plan for the future, which was followed by a Q&A.

Highgate is Here

Our Response to the Pandemic

After the eventful months of 2020, which affected all of us in different ways, Head Adam Pettitt took to Zoom to update parents, OCs and friends of the school about Highgate's charitable response to the impact of coronavirus. Audience members had the chance to learn about our immediate responsibilities to members of our community facing hardship, job losses and bereavements; as well as our plans to introduce more means-tested places for key worker families by introducing bursaries in our Junior School, for the first time in our history.

Junior School Bursaries: 'All of us benefit'

In this online event, Development Director Emily Clarke returned with guest speakers, Mark James (Principal of Highgate's Junior School) and **Charles Duah** (TL 2019), to inform parents and OCs more fully about plans to introduce bursaries into the Junior School. Emily and Mark gave a thoughtful and in-depth insight into the school's rationale behind the plans and their strategy to ensure all pupils feel included at Highgate. Charles, a former bursary pupil at Highgate himself, spoke with passion and openness about his experience and why he feels like bursaries really can change lives.

Protecting the mental health of disadvantaged children

Jan Balon (Head at LAE Tottenham) joined Highgate's Development Director, Emily Clarke, to discuss the future of mental health support at LAET. Jan explained how essential it is that students at LAET receive adequate mental health and pastoral support – for which the school receives no government funding. Many of the students are economically disadvantaged and thus more likely to experience mental health issues, a risk exacerbated by the impact of the pandemic. Since this event, supporters have collectively contributed tens of thousands of pounds for mental health provision at LAET: the difference this will make cannot be overstated.

Bridging the Gap: disadvantage, the pandemic and our plans

In the final Highgate is Here online talk of the Lent term, Jan Balon (Headteacher at LAET), Sarah Butterworth (Community Partnerships Director at Highgate) and Helen Drummond (Director of Chrysalis East) came together to talk about how Highgate's community can support children in Haringey and London more widely. Topics ranged from how we can prevent the disadvantage gap widening as a result of the pandemic, to Chrysalis East: Highgate and LAET's new initiative to support primary schoolchildren in Haringey.

Highgate is here

Sports

Fives

There was a short return to fives between mid-August and November 2020, which included some tremendous OC achievements. Emily Scoones reached the Ladies National Final this year. Joe Marks won 20/21 Men's University (representing UCL) and Marjolaine Briscoe the Women's University title (representing Oxford). The Fives club has returned to the Highgate courts for practice, after the lifting of COVID restrictions. Numbers are strong, but we always look forward to welcoming lots more OCs 'back to Fives' on Thursday evenings.

In other highlights, the OCs reached the semi-finals of the Alan Barber Cup, whilst Jonny Ho looks forward to the semi-final of the Kinnaird Cup in July.

Emily Scoones (GH 2009)
Jonny Ho (MG 2008)

Cricket

The OCs continue to field two teams in the Hertfordshire league. It has been wonderful to begin training and playing this year, even if the start of the season was affected by inclement weather. We hope for a better summer to come!

As ever, we hope to be able to encourage school leavers to play for us after the end of term, with the recent match with this year's School leavers helping connect the two groups. A thoroughly enjoyable occasion, set in glorious sunshine on senior field, saw the school edge out the OCs in a thriller. Notable performances came from Wyn Bliss, Will Jenkins and Ben Miller for the school. Tom Halstead built on his weekend century to score an unbeaten 50 for the OCs.

In the cricketer cup, the OCs lost to an excellent Harrow team. We hope to progress further next year.

John Zani (WG 1966)

Golf

Our season has just kicked off following a few early season postponements. The Halford Hewitt which usually kicks off the season in early April has been postponed to mid-September, and the Grafton Morrish qualifying has also been pushed back to the 13th of June from its usual early May date.

Despite the postponement of the Halford Hewitt and Grafton Morrish competitions, as well as our annual match vs the School, we were able to hold our Spring Meeting as scheduled. This took place at Old Fold Manor Golf Club in Barnet on Monday 24th May. A wonderful day: those who attended were happy to get to see each other and get involved in competition again.



Old Fold Manor has long been absent as a venue for the OCGS, with old records showing we last had a meeting there in 1928. The morning consisted of an individual Stableford competition with four trophies to play for. The rain led to some challenging golf, with the scores on the high side, but winning the Scratch Cup for the fourth time was Mark Walton. Robert Audley won the Merton Jones Cup for the best Stableford score in the lower handicap category. Chris Harris won the Tiger Cup and the Stroke Less Age Cup went to Kim Harris. The afternoon Foursomes event for the HF Edwards Cups was also won by Mark Walton, partnered by James Lloyd-Davies. On the same score but edged out to second place on count back was the pairing of Gerald Wingrove & Nick Ayres.

We had a host of events in mid-June: six days in a row of OC golf, including the annual Mill Hill match, the Horns of Highgate, the Grafton Morrish qualifying, the Royal Wimbledon Inter Schools Putting competition. Finally, at Woking Golf Club we have the Senior Darwin.

Anyone interested to know more or to join the Old Cholmeleians Golf Society, please contact the Hon Secretary, Anuj Anand. All new members warmly welcome.

Anuj Anand (HG 1986)

Football

The OC 1st and 2nd XI competed in the Arthurian League 1st and 4th Divisions. Sadly, the league season was not completed due to COVID, with the 2nd XI just missing potential promotion when in pole position.

The OC 1st XI had a mixed season that started with some impressive results, including a 6-1 victory over Old Chigwelians and 2-0 victory over Lancing Old Boys in the Arthur Dunn Cup. The Arthur Dunn Cup run ended in a penalty shoot-out vs Old Wykehamists after a hard fought 2-2. The game was played on 1st club, with the OC 1st XI showing great character to come back from behind twice. Player of the match went to Elliott Farr, who covered every blade of grass on the pitch!

The OC 2nd XI had a fantastic cup run, reaching the final of the DWT cup, losing 2-0 to Old Albanians. Special mention to Imran Basri who took over the captaincy this season and guided the team to top of the 4th Division, as well as the excellent cup run. Much of the team's success was due to the combination of experienced players such as Dash Lilly, Adam Benson, Nick Franklin, and Luke Davey, combining with the younger players who recently joined the club including Tom Disley, Kane Rayner, Toby Butler and Rob McLennan.

Meanwhile, the OC Vets rolled back the years and reached the quarter finals of the Vets cup, with an epic 3-1 win over Charterhouse, winning the game with only 9 warriors left on the pitch!

The football club is in good heart at present, being the destination for many school leavers. Numbers are excellent and we look forward to attracting more players, young and old, to pre-season training over the summer.

Nick Franklin (FG 2002)

Netball

OCs continued to play in the Spring league, based in central London, with numbers growing well. The summer league in Angel, Islington starts soon, with new captain Hannah Rapley looking forward to continued success and fun. Netball England promotes 'back to netball' each year – so come and join us after work and get 'back to OC netball.

Nina Sorenson (KG 2008)

Run and Become!

Michael Allan-Dan (WG 2010)



OCs Michael Allan-Dan (left) and Asher Brooks (right)

I sometimes wonder what I would do with all the free time I would have if I didn't run.

Chasing a sub-15-minute 5k keeps me highly motivated to this day, and the perennial thought of sitting in an armchair in 50 years' time, having not given it my best shot, would wrack me with guilt. My running career started at Highgate, and I have fond memories of outings across the Heath and charging up Bishops Avenue with Mr Creagh on the Monday after-school time trial. But it was the Knole Run hosted by Sevenoaks School where, as a fresh-faced Year 10, I managed to be the first Highgate boy home, which made me think I could be quite useful at it. So, in addition to the running we did at school, I went along to a few sessions with Shaftesbury Barnet Harriers. These were with a fantastically talented group at the old Barnet Copthall Stadium under the guidance of legendary coach and former Highgate Head of Sport Mr. Williams, which really opened my eyes to the level of training some of the quickest schoolboys in the country were doing.

I went on to compete regularly for the school at cross-country and athletics, and then for the University of Bath where most of my best friendships and memories were made. In the sixth form I also joined Highgate Harriers (despite doing a bit of training with Shaftesbury!) where I'm still a member. Running has made me who I am today and forms a significant part of my identity. I think I even landed my first job from having my 5K time on my CV because the first thing the interviewer said was that he had run the same distance ten minutes slower the previous evening!

After a challenging day at work, there is nothing more liberating than knowing for the next hour I need to think of little more than putting one foot in front of the other. Problems seem far less significant afterwards, and I'm a firm believer in the strong correlation between physical and mental health. When I haven't run that day, I feel more irritable for not having done so. I find it an exceptional

outlet for clearing headspace and pondering all sorts, although usually it's related to what I'm going to have for tea. Working for a small e-commerce start-up, my manager lets me have extended lunch breaks so I can get out for a run along the canal towards Victoria Park.

As mentioned, some of my best friends have come from my running. There is nothing that creates a bond like helping each other through a hard session. 16 x 400m off one minute recovery would be very tough on your own. In a group, taking the lead every fourth rep, not a problem. Heading down to the Southampton Arms to reward yourself after such a session is also a key part of the recovery!

Its beauty is in its simplicity: no expensive equipment, extravagant membership fees or long distances to travel required. Just a bit of imagination to keep your routes varied and interesting, and a little more motivation during the winter months. If you're thinking of taking up a new hobby, there's nothing I'd recommend more.

Treading a successful path with *Trado*

Sophia Parvizi-Wayne (WG 2015)



Sophia Parvizi-Wayne (WG 2015)

Eight years ago, talking about mental health was not a thing, let alone something you would choose to go and broadcast live on television to millions of people. However, during Year 12, my best friend Amber and I decided to do exactly that.

I was a recovered anorexic and Amber was my supportive friend, a situation many found themselves in, but with little education on how to both listen and speak out. From our first 'team meeting' in a small North London Cafe during a study session for our AS mock exams, to being on the front page of countless magazines, newspapers, prime-time television and radio shows, we saw the impact that two teenagers could have just by talking openly.

When I left Highgate, I thought my life was pretty planned out. I would take my gap year and stay in the UK, keep up with the running, and eventually become a journalist, like I had always said I would. Things could not have turned out more differently. During my gap year, I ended up with the top junior time in the UK for the 5000m and 3rd in Europe for my age. I had never thought I would end up being a professional athlete, but the newfound prestige led me to America,

as a student-athlete at Duke University in North Carolina. With such a drastic change, I had expected a plethora of difficulties to come, but I saw how much mental health education could and did impact the way I handled any form of stress. From 6.45am training sessions after evenings out with friends, to managing to keep myself under control whilst my mother battled cancer at home, recognising that I always had my psychological toolbox enabled me to work through things and find coping mechanisms for the times that I couldn't.

My life completely changed at Duke in the best way possible: new friends, new interests and even joining a sorority, but I also found a new passion for entrepreneurship, something which I realised the UK had somewhat neglected in their education system. Aside from the racing, the academics and social life, I began my own company in my senior year - Trado.

Trado is a web application that asks you interesting and curated questions, records your answer and turns your voice into a professionally written, perfectly-bound book. From war stories, to immigration tales, to love stories and more, we use custom machine learning to turn audio recordings into cleansed and polished narratives. Trado has a database of thousands of custom-tailored prompts from topics as general as love life to as specific as life working on a cattle farm that generate specific interview questions through our machine learning. From here, our customers record their answers using our in-house app, and, as they record, our voice-to-book technology gets to work: transcribing, cleansing and piecing together the story. The final part brings in our professional writers, who polish off the story and bring it to life. Three weeks later, a professionally-written, personalised book arrives for £150.

Whilst this all sounds rather technical, my experience in mental health was pivotal in creating the company, despite the machine learning emphasis. The goal of this company is to speak out about your experiences and listen to those who share them - almost identical to the root message that Amber and I had begun with from the start. My goal with this company is to provide voices to the unheard and to democratise an industry that has left so many people unable to tell and hold onto their stories.



LOCKDOWN!

Bizhan Tong

Bizhan Tong (MG 2005) is a Hong Kong-based filmmaker with an eye for a topical subject.

Lockdown, which is due to be released shortly, looks at our attitudes to lockdown, from conspiracy theories to drinking bleach, through the medium of an actor being auditioned online for a part which keeps requiring him to perform ever more bizarre acts. Texts arrive which warn him that, if he fails to perform these actions, someone will die. Bizhan's feel for a topical subject was evident in the first film he ever made – *Ticket*, which tackles head-on the subject of toxic masculinity. The idea for the film came when Bizhan overheard other guests at a university party planning to make a girl drunk

then seduce her. Bizhan spent the rest of the evening with her, checking she was safe. He is remaking the 2001 film *Tape* for the Asian market. *Tape* originally starred Uma Thurman and tackles the same idea. Shooting starts at the end of the year, and Bizhan has hired the original scriptwriter.

Bizhan sees his mission as a filmmaker to tell stories 'which make social change possible.' Outside of film, he sits on the board of the UN's He For She campaign and is co-chair of Barclay Group's gender diversity initiative, Women on Board.

Chairman of the Trade Remedies Authority

Simon Walker

Simon Walker (JS 1964) is the new chairman of the Trade Remedies Authority, following a five-year spell as Director General of the Institute of Directors. He has had a fascinating career, previously holding the posts of Communications Secretary to HM The Queen and advisor to former prime minister, John Major.

Simon enjoyed the sense of history and tradition at the IOD, which was founded in 1906 by a group of businessmen including Stanley Baldwin, who rose to be Conservative prime minister in 1935. He also enjoyed "dealing with a broad swathe of the economy."

I asked him if he had a sense of whether Brexit would make us richer or poorer. His answer was that of a seasoned pragmatist: "It's happened and we must get on with life. It wasn't all about economics and I take the Treasury view that there will be a diminution of growth over the next ten years but that it will even out over time."

His new role at the TRA will involve the UK's altered relationship with the EU: 43 cases transition from 130 products being

investigated by the EU, but the main body of work will be cases involving China and Russia.

The TRA deals with unfair trade practices, primarily the 'dumping' of unfairly subsidised products on our markets. Investigating these is a complex and technical business, and Simon heads a team of 130 at their offices in Reading, comprising lawyers and economists who examine each case for evidence of unfair subsidy.

"It's a tough call when you are dealing with a non-market economy, like China, and the standards of proof are high. Cases can take years to evaluate. A majority at the moment come from the steel industry, although there is an interesting case against Turkey for unfairly importing rainbow trout."



I ask him if he's relieved he isn't advising the royals at the moment, and whether he is expecting a call from Meghan Markle anytime soon. He chuckles but his answer is superbly diplomatic: "Her Majesty does a superb job. They need to keep on with what they do best and not react too suddenly to issues that come up. They need to be honest in the answers they give."

Simon has enjoyed a wonderfully diverse and varied career, which he admits he has found "fascinating." We wish him every success in his new role at the TRA.

Simon Appleton

Promise in Politics

Sheyda Monshizadeh-Azar



Sheyda Monshizadeh-Azar (HG 2007) has enjoyed a varied and interesting career thus far. She, like many OCs, is increasingly of the belief that skills are transferrable and that there is no such thing anymore as a job for life.

I expect many OCs think about a career change at some point, and this is increasingly common. Why did you pursue tech as opposed to politics?

I work for one of the largest companies in the world, as part of the unit that helps protect billions of people on the internet. I would argue that my new role is still rather political. The centres of power have changed, not so much my career ambitions. I am still very much interested in politics, but you have to be agile professionally. Also, I never saw politics as a career. As Bob Marley said, more eloquently than any politician, “everything is political.” My values have not changed. I wanted to solve problems and learn. I am still doing that, albeit for Google rather than for the Labour Party.

Can you tell us a bit more about the ethos of the company? It seems like a great place to work, and Dublin a fun city to relocate to!

I work with incredibly intelligent, interesting, warm people who treat one another with

a stunning level of respect. It has been a wonderful place to work and to learn. As an Iranian woman, in the past I have felt uncomfortable in certain working environments or felt I have been overlooked in some way. That is something I do not experience anymore.

You had some interesting roles in politics. Can you tell us a little about them?

I worked, mostly in press roles, for Diane Abbott MP, from 2014–2017 and for the Labour Party from 2018–2020. During that period Diane was receiving more abuse than all of the other MPs in Parliament put together. I don’t think anything could prepare me for the levels of scrutiny we were under, and I was exposed to a part of Britain that I had mainly been sheltered from. I won’t bore you with too many examples, but my roles gave me an exceptional education. But I can’t unsee those things, and for better or worse, that has shaped how I view elements of the ‘first past the post’ political system and the levels of inequality across London.

Any advice for anyone wishing to go into politics?

Here’s some advice, if I can offer any:

1. Don’t view politics as a career.
2. Stop complaining from the sidelines, join a party, start a campaign, do something.
3. Read widely, be open-minded, but develop convictions that you can defend.
4. It’s important to have good admin skills - nail it down.
5. “Don’t be in a hurry to condemn because he doesn’t do what you do or think as you think or as fast. There was a time when you didn’t know what you know today.”
- Malcolm X

Back to your time at Highgate and Heathgate. Do you have any memories that stand out?

I studied Politics as an A Level, and the classes where we followed the nomination process for the US presidency still stand out. The unthinkable was happening, and Barack Obama was rising in popularity as a potential presidential candidate. This was during the zenith of the War on Terror, and I found it spectacular that a black man with a Muslim name (that he shared with my father) could become President of the US.

I loved politics at school, and at the time I think I was the only female and Muslim in the class. I believe now that those dynamics and the hopeful political climate then had a more profound impact on my aspirations and interests than was clear to me at the time.

Demi Abiola Passionate About Diversity



Congratulations to Demi Abiola (HG 1993), Business Director at PHD Media, who were recognised as Campaign's Media Agency of the Year in 2020.

A well-deserved accolade following an increase in pitch wins, strong client satisfaction levels, reduced staff turnover and delivering some of the agency's most creative, effective work – all amid a challenging set of circumstances.

Before joining PHD Media in September 2005, Demi started his career at KPMG where he trained to be an accountant. It wasn't long until he realised working in media would be a better match for his gregarious personality, and he subsequently joined ITV in 2002. Demi has a range of experience across many different advertising sectors; his current client portfolio includes the likes of Warner Bros, HSBC, VW Brands, Diageo and many more.

During his time at Highgate, Demi was an enthusiastic sportsman; regularly playing football and rugby, and captaining both the athletics and basketball teams. Now a keen cyclist, boxer and yogi, Demi continues to lead an active lifestyle. He has long been involved in OC life, providing career and mentoring support to younger OCs and partner school pupils.

Passionate about diversity in advertising, Demi has frequently acted as a panellist, judge and speaker at industry events. He is the Multicultural Ambassador for PH Media and sits on a steering group advising Omnicom Media Group on Diversity policies. Alongside acting as Soho House's Diversity Consultant, he has written a number of thought leader pieces on race in the advertising industry.

Demi is a mentor at the Brixton Finishing School, an organisation providing solutions to diversity challenges in the creative industries. He is also a member of MEFA (Media For All), a support and mentoring network focusing on representation for Black, Asian and other ethnic talent in media.

We're thrilled to have Demi involved in the OC Business section, as Head of the OC Media and Advertising group. He is looking forward to collaborating with other OCBS groups and with OCs in Media and Advertising.

P and P-Lily Style Lily Pagano

Many would think that the Sciences and the Arts fall at opposite ends of the spectrum, but OC photographer, Lily Pagano (EG 2015), is breaking new ground and challenging convention!

After leaving Highgate in 2015, Lily embarked on a journey in photography after picking up her grandfather's film camera. In her own words, she "started to get in touch with [her] photography genes." Lily began building a portfolio and developing her photographic skill-set, on top of studying full-time for an MSci in Physics at UCL.

Since then, Lily has established a career in freelance photography, with professional experience in fashion, portrait and event photography. This includes live music, awards ceremonies, book launches and debates. Her editorial work has been published in magazines including the Gay Times, and she has assisted at numerous high-profile photoshoots for clients including GQ China, Refinery 29, and several architectural companies.

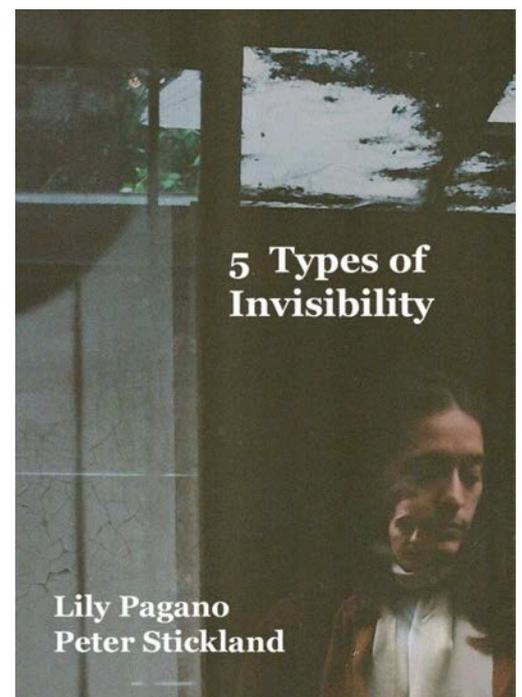
On top of writing her Master's thesis, Lily has co-authored a book titled *Five Types of Invisibility*. Lily's motivation was to discover new ground by "aiming to tread the territory between physics, photography and poetry."

Lost in the dark beauty of the weather-filled day, we go over into the distance of the hours that we need. Trapped inside a cusp-like halo, we map a thin model of our interstellar spin and come to assume the existence of a single negative shadow. We recognise shadows as they pass overhead and feel certain that we ourselves are the shadows. We see things our own age, ages old and beyond a foreseeable future. We see things of the night's duration living with us, looking this way and that just as this quiet woman considers dark matter.

- From *Five Types of Invisibility* by Lily Pagano.

For more information about Lily's writing and photography, visit:

lilypaganophotography.co.uk





Raj Bisram

Bargain Hunter!

We caught up with Raj Bisram (EG 1974), about his memories of school and his career in television.

Firstly, can you tell us about your time at school?

I started at Highgate in 1970, arriving from a local state school. I had a great time at Highgate and am forever grateful for the opportunities that I had there. I enjoyed most academic lessons and learned a lot, but it was the extra-curricular life that I had most appetite for. Teachers had so many varied interests, and many were experts in their academic fields, but also other very surprising things.

You left school early by your own choice. Can you tell us why?

Even though we did not have an awful lot of money, my parents had sent me to Highgate to give me a good education and a good start in life. Highgate was such a different experience for me and so exciting from day one. A desire to explore different things probably led me to leave at 17. I was impatient and decided to join the army as a Physical Training Instructor (PTI).

And your time in the army led to you discovering another sporting talent that you never knew you had?

Whilst on a training exercise in Austria, I learned I had a talent for skiing and went on to represent the British Army in Downhill and Slalom. I pursued this further and became a professional Skier and a Ski Instructor in Austria.

Your life in skiing was a great conversation piece on the recent 'Would I Lie To You'. How was that experience?

I absolutely loved being on the show. I love the show and am a huge fan of Lee Mack. If you look at the footage I find it really difficult not to laugh all the time. The hosts are so quick-witted. I think my magic trick that went wrong is one of the most viewed clips ever from the show – great for everyone, I love magic and have done so much of it. I hope I am better than that now!

Back to school, was there anything about Highgate that you are particularly grateful for?

The opportunities to explore different things and to mix with so many different people. Highgate was quite strict, but also taught me so many lessons about myself and about life. My time at Highgate gave me confidence to interact with people, be sociable and ask questions. I joined the army as a PTI, but many of my school contemporaries would go to Sandhurst and become officers. I knew that officers weren't different to me and so found it easy to converse with everyone. I loved sport at the school and did everything related to it, but I was also encouraged to have a go at other things and to bounce back from disappointment.

You say that you have recently passed the school and noticed that there appears to be greater diversity? Is this different from your days at school?

I seem to recall that I was the only boy of Indian heritage in my year, and I think there was only one other Indian boy in the school. I have to say that I never felt conscious of this, and my experiences were very positive.

But yes, walking past the school recently and seeing lots of children of different ethnicities was very pleasing.

Do you feel that you have been an important figure in increasing diversity in things that you have been involved with over the years?

It has never been something that I have consciously thought about, but I hope that I have encouraged different groups to have the confidence to enter in different spheres of opportunity. I think I was the first Asian antiques presenter on TV, and I think I am still the only registered Asian ski instructor in Austria. Now on TV there is much greater diversity, which is excellent.

On the subject of antiques, what is your most memorable find?

I once sold one of Admiral Lord Nelson's signed wills.

How do you forge a career in this area – it's quite niche isn't it?

You have to be interested in what you want to pursue; you have to enjoy it and have energy. I started collecting antiques at the age of ten and have always been interested in them. Again, school gave me the confidence, I suppose, to look at this as a career and have a go without fear of failure. It also provided me with an inquisitive nature, which is useful in antiques!

Nina's Story

Nina Sorensen (KG 2008)

Can you tell us a bit about yourself and your time at school?

The decision to come to Highgate was driven by a desire for a new challenge, having attended an all-girls' state school for my secondary education. I joined Kingsgate House in the third cohort of female sixth form pupils in 2006, and studied A Level Economics, English and Biology, along with AS Level French. Having participated in and captained a variety of sports at my previous school, I was initially concerned that the only sports offered to girls at Highgate were netball, cross-country, rounders and dance. With some support from the heads of sport, I started the first girls' swimming team, which won at its first gala, and was part of the inaugural girls' fives pair, marking the beginning of a very successful girls fives team which has seen many successes over the years. My sporting ambitions continued beyond school; I joined the women's basketball team whilst reading my first degree at Nottingham, before going on to captain the women's basketball team and to play for the netball team at City, University of London whilst undertaking my second degree in adult nursing.

It took me a little while to figure out what I wanted to pursue as a career, but I knew it was going to be in the NHS in some form, having spent much of my childhood as a patient. I finally landed on nursing, which perfectly married my interest in health and sport with a high-pressured, team working environment. It is a tough job with multiple responsibilities, long hours and a good level of physiological and anatomical knowledge required, but at the same time incredibly rewarding and humbling.

How long have you been involved with the OC committee and what does the committee do?

I have been involved in the committee since 2019 after my return from New York. One of the aims of the committee is to explore ways in which we can better connect OCs, whether that be through industry events, talks, sports clubs and socials; and create a sense of community whereby people can support and create opportunities for peers. It is also an opportunity to connect with former classmates, and even befriend

OCs with whom you never shared a class but have similar interests. We want people to feel connected and know that, regardless of what journeys they take or how far away life or work takes them, Highgate, the OC committee and greater OC community, are here to support and celebrate the various achievements of our alumni.

What are your aims moving forward?

That activities, communications and representatives all reflect the diversity of the OC community. All should feel part of this friendly community. To have people approach me with suggestions or concerns. My aim moving forward is to work with our Head of Sports, Alberto Fraquelli, to unify the various sports teams and hopefully introduce and support additional sports, based on the preferences of our alumni community. I also want to find ways we can better celebrate culturally important events, such as LGBT History Month, Black History Month and International Women's Day within our community through events, features and communications. It would also be great to see more representation of more recent leavers and their achievements, along with career days with OCs to support pupils with their desired career paths, as well as those who, like me, didn't necessarily have a career goal when leaving school. I hope to be an approachable advocate for OCs to voice suggestions or concerns, particularly following the recent claims of misogyny and sexism within the school that we need to tackle aggressively as a community, and support those who have been affected.

The past year must have been tough?

I joined the critical care nursing team at the beginning of the first wave of the pandemic, spending the majority of the pandemic in the intensive care unit caring for critically ill COVID-19 patients. It was incredibly overwhelming and ultimately very sad to witness, particularly as patients were not allowed to have their family and friends with them. After an exhausting first wave, we had to do it all again, this time for longer, with



Nina Sorensen (KG 2006)

even more critically ill patients, and with a more frustrated wider public. It required a huge amount of resilience. At the same time, we witnessed an incredible humanitarian effort, with restaurants, charities and local communities offering food and support to those in need, a small gesture of kindness and compassion in a very challenging time. I am so grateful to those who thought of us; it's so humbling to know that hospitality businesses who could potentially go out of business were still willing to support others. The atmosphere on the units is very different now, and although everyone is exhausted, it's business as usual as we prepare to welcome back patients who have had to put off lifesaving treatment and surgeries.

Any final messages for OCs?

This year has been particularly difficult for younger generations and those who are in education. Students have had to readjust to studying away from friends and confined indoors, the impact of which should not be understated. Recent university leavers are also faced with a similar employment crisis that we saw in 2008. I urge anyone who is concerned or struggling to reach out to the OC community as there are many of us who are willing and able to help. But most importantly, embrace the new freedom and seize every opportunity that is presented to you. There is so much pressure to pursue a career straight out of university or school, but you may want to take your time and prioritise what is important to you. I very nearly didn't go to New York because I was worried about how it would impact my nursing career; going was the best decision I ever made. I very much doubt I will ever sit in the garden in my retirement and think "Gosh, I should have worked more..."

Theatre, Music and Me

Anna Lowenstein

Anna Lowenstein (FG 2011) is hoping that *Indecent* – a play-within-a-play about the first onstage lesbian kiss – will be on at the Meniere Chocolate Factory as soon as restrictions lift.

Anna – a Klezmer musician – is a member of the onstage band in the show, which she describes as: “an amazing piece of theatre. It’s a show about a Yiddish play by Sholem Asch, *God of Vengeance*, written in 1906. It tells the story of a love affair between the daughter of a brothel owner and one of the prostitutes.”

In spite of its subject, Anna describes the play as: “very unfetichised; it’s just a love story. It was translated and put on Broadway in the 1920s, which resulted in the cast and crew being arrested for indecency, hence the title of the piece.”

Indecent, by Paula Vogel, tells the story of the staging of that original show. It was due to be staged at David Babani’s Chocolate Factory last March. Just days before the curtain was due to go up, the lockdown began. In spite of this frustration, Anna has not let time slip by: she has been working on a solo album and helping with the Newham Music Project, for young people with special educational

needs, as well as working with a community storytelling project, Take Stock Exchange.

Her interest in music began at Highgate, where she played in the *Sweeney Todd* show and various groups, remembering fondly a quartet run by Dr Szydlo – but it was growing up in Stamford Hill which was to prove the bigger influence on her musical development. “Klezmer music is Yiddish dance music, which grew out of life-cycle rituals, like weddings. I grew up next to a synagogue, and listening to the music every day influenced me.”

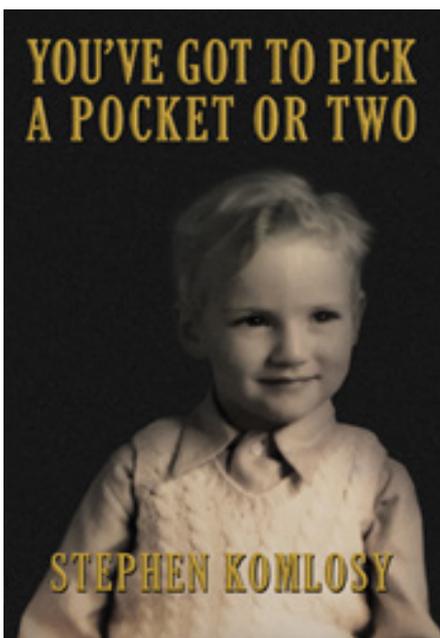
Unlike classical music, which she studied at Manchester, with Klezmer music “something clicked inside me.” She spent a gap year in Berlin, studying Klezmer music and playing in a band.

Let’s hope that live theatre returns soon, and that this original and daring piece finally gets staged.



A wonderful life!

Stephen Komlosy



Stephen Komlosy (TL 1958) has certainly enjoyed a very eventful life. So much so that he has recently written not one, but two books!

His first, *You've got to Pick a Pocket or Two*, is autobiographical and includes his memories of arriving from Singapore in 1953 and boarding in The Lodge until 1958. We learn about Stephen’s management of the writer Lionel Bart and his work with several musical stars. His company worked closely with Tina Turner, The Supremes, Stevie Wonder, Chuck Berry, The Rolling Stones, PJ Proby, Billy Fury, Marty Wilde and Genesis. Stephen also managed OC singer and actor Jonny Leyton, star of the *The Great Escape*. His company owned four UK theatres, two of them in the West End.

Stephen embarked upon a very successful business career. Since 1964, Stephen has built up three private property companies, two of which have been amalgamated with public companies. He has also been director of a number of other publicly quoted

companies. He was co-founder/former Chairman and CEO of TomCo Energy PLC, which he floated on AIM in 2011.

Stephen is married to Patti Boulaye, the famous singer and actress of stage and screen, and both are very passionate about charitable work. As trustees of the Support for Africa charity, they have helped facilitate the building of five healthcare clinics and a school in Nigeria, Cameroon and Lesotho.

For many years Stephen was on the committee of ‘Stars Organisation for People with Cerebral Palsy.’ He is also a UPF Ambassador for Peace and was awarded the Star Foundation Award at the House of Lords for services to the community. Stephen’s other book is *Flight of the Rainbow Flame*, a science fiction novel. There is no doubt that he has packed a great deal into his eighty years!



Nick Hits for Six

Nick Friend

Cricket writer and Old Cholmeleian Nick Friend (MG 2013) has been named *Christopher Martin-Jenkins Young Journalist of the Year* at the ECB Domestic Journalism Awards.

Friend, 26, the eldest of three brothers – all of whom attended Highgate from Year 9 through to Year 13 – writes for *The Cricketer*, a specialist cricket website and magazine, now in its hundredth year.

The awards celebrate the coverage of the domestic game in England and Wales across written and broadcast media. The judging panel include prominent sports journalists: David Lloyd, Harsha Bhogle, Mike Selvey and Lawrence Booth.

The panel commented on Friend's piece, explaining: "Nick's submission demonstrated an excellent approach to storytelling alongside an obvious passion for his work.

"We were particularly impressed with his diligence and the commitment he showed to every story, as well as the maturity and polish of his writing. His hard work and deep understanding of his subject really shone through."

The Cricketer Digital Editor Sam Morshead added: "Nick has been a huge part of [our] effort during such a trying year, and the judges rightly identified his passion for everything he does."

Friend's submission included a long-form feature on Slovakian handball player Maros Kolpak, whose legal battle over the terms of his registration created a legal loophole that became hugely significant in English cricket; a deep read on the rise of Worcestershire's white-ball squad; and conversations with some of the 41 female players who became professional as part of the ECB's investment in the women's game.

Tweeting his gratitude for the award, Friend admitted he was "really chuffed and overwhelmed" to be recognised for his writing.

Prior to the coronavirus pandemic, he spent a week in Pakistan, covering the work of an academy in a rural town in South Punjab which provides cricketing opportunities to young people in an underprivileged area.

Before joining *The Cricketer* in 2019, he worked for CNN Sport and SportsPro Media.

During his time at Highgate, Friend played cricket for the school's first team from the age of 14, making his debut against Westminster as a Year 9 student, and playing his final game on tour in Sri Lanka following his graduation.

Q&A with Head of Music

Jonathan Murphy



What or who first inspired your love of music?

I don't come from a family of musicians, but both of my parents are really enthusiastic lovers of music. My dad taught himself the clarinet as a child and my mum played the piano. Both of my parents were teachers: modern linguists, and as many children of teachers out there know, this involved them marking late into the evening. One of my fondest memories growing up is of my dad marking in the sitting room whilst listening to classical music, mostly string quartets, on his prized record player. I also have to mention the amazing music service in Bromley, where I grew up, and my music teacher in secondary school, Stephen Davies: a fine musician with a deeply felt love of music and who first introduced me to the music of JS Bach - more of him later!

Which musical instruments do you play?

My first instrument is the violin, which I studied at conservatoire. I mostly play the viola at the moment as I have acquired a healthy passion for learning the Bach Cello Suites, which I started during lockdown in March. I also play the piano and have recently started learning jazz piano.

What genre of music do you perform?

Mostly classical but I love playing folk music, singing and jazz/blues piano.

Who is your favourite musical artist and why?

It has to be JS Bach first for me every time - and then after that it depends on my mood.

What is your all-time favourite album?

Everything and anything by JS Bach.

What was your first album or song you bought?

Brahms Violin Concerto with Anne Sofie Mutter as soloist and Bad by Michael Jackson.

What was the most memorable musical performance you have taken part in or attended?

There have been quite a few, and I think the ones that spring most readily to mind are actually the funny moments and the calamitous moments that happened in live performance. For me, anytime we go on stage as a performer or leading a group of pupils it is an exciting and inspiring experience and I am very grateful that I get to do what I love and get paid for it!

What motivated you to teach and what do you enjoy about it as a profession?

I always had a deep sense that I wanted to share the love and enjoyment of music-making with others so they could experience all the amazing things that playing a musical instrument brings to your life.

Do you have one tip for the aspiring musician?

It has to be learning to practice well - the single greatest skill you can work on! And this from Hugh Laurie: "It's a terrible thing, I think, in life to wait until you're ready. I have this feeling that no-one is ever ready to do anything. There is almost no such thing as ready. There is only now. And you may as well do it now. Generally speaking, now is about as good a time to do it as any!"

What is the aim behind the pop-up busking spots around the school?

We wanted to try to create spaces where musicians can get up and perform around school. I remember busking as a young musician and loving how close I was to the audience and how immediate their feedback was: if they liked your playing, they stayed, and if you were lucky they gave you money! Being so close to your audience and being able to feed off their mood and enthusiasm for your playing is an amazing feeling. You can really make someone's day by playing some beautiful music. I also believe you can learn a lot about performing by busking. And I want the school to be filled with the sound of music!



Pens and Needles

Marco Palumbo



Marco Palumbo (QG 1996) is not an easy man to describe; a phenomenally talented artist and technician, a Punk musician, an Italian who is devoted to his family, a man with an incredible work ethic who never sits still, someone for whom creativity comes as naturally as breathing. But it's safe to say that Highgate wouldn't be Highgate without him.



As our Senior Art Technician, he supports the Art teachers brilliantly and gives one-to-one tutorials to pupils in graphic design, screen printing, video editing and casting. He's also the School's in-house illustrator, assisting the Communications team with the production of creative collateral. When he is isn't working at Highgate, Marco is a professional graphic designer. He also runs a record label, plays in a number of punk rock bands AND is father to three boys! If this doesn't earn him enough kudos, Marco also owns a tattoo studio, located at the bottom of his garden!

How did you find life as a pupil at Highgate?

I was at Highgate for nine years between 1987 - 1996 and I really enjoyed my time here, especially the two sixth form years, which is a time that I still get very nostalgic about. It was a very different school back then, certainly rougher around the edges and, of course, it was an all-boys school.

It was nowhere near as well-rounded and diverse as it is now, but I felt very much at home here and had nothing but positive experiences both academically and socially. I wasn't a typical Highgate boy as I was very much influenced by the music I was listening to so, at times, my appearance was challenging, but that's something that inevitably comes with the punk rock territory! Drainpipe trousers, spiked or messy hair, steel-toed boots... I just about teetered on the boundary of acceptability! I am still very good friends with many people I met in my first year at Highgate, which I think is a great testament to my experience here.

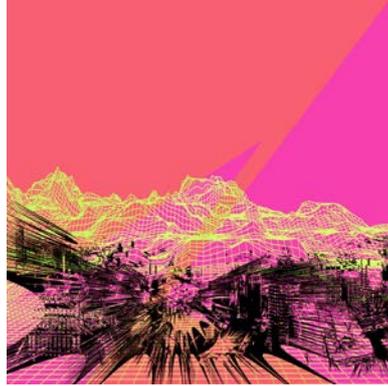
What A levels did you study and where did you go to uni?

I took Art, French and Economics and I also took Italian out of school, but I actually sat the final Italian exam at Highgate. I studied Architecture at UCL (The Bartlett School of Architecture). I knew I wanted to study Architecture since I was around 10 years old, but I never wanted to be an architect. I have always been a good artist but there was something about the architectural approach to art that made a permanent impression on me at a young age. A very close family friend was an architect and his style of drawing and sketching was unlike anything I had seen before. He was able to make ideas come to life in front of you. With a few lines on the page he could create endless potential. There was a pronounced freedom to this that presented itself to me and has never left. I was adamant that I wanted to study at The Bartlett as their progressive and visionary approach resonated with me. I still refer to what I learned there on a daily basis, and not only in the education milieu but on an entire life perspective. I studied Sound Engineering at IMW after completing my degree.

Twenty-four years later, how has the school culture changed, and how do you view it 'from the other side' as a member of staff?

I started working at Highgate in 2003, which was the final year of it being an all-boys school. I loved every second of my time spent in the Art department as a pupil so it was delightful to be back there! By that point, the school culture hadn't changed much and I had only been away for seven years, so it felt very familiar and comfortable.





It was a little weird at first going to the Common Room as most of my teachers were still working here at that point!

When Highgate became co-ed, which started with the Sixth Form in 2004, there was a perceivable change and the school felt re-energized. From that point on, Highgate has continued to evolve and improve environmentally, architecturally, socially and academically to be the forward-thinking school it is today.

What advice would you give to your sixteen-year-old self?

It's the advice that I have always lived by: always make time for the things you love and that make you happy and don't worry at all what others think. Do not allow peer pressure to steal something away that means a great deal to you. I spent most of my teenage years being misunderstood and, on several occasions, derided for my appearance, but I stuck to my beliefs and didn't allow any of that to change me.

Tell us a little bit about your love of music.

Music has always been a prominent influence in my life and since the age of around eight I was fully immersed. I listen to music every single day and I make a point to play vinyl records every day. The excitement and elation I receive from music is as strong today as it ever was. This is a fire that will never go out for me. Being involved in the production side, whether it be recording music, putting out records, designing artwork (displayed above) or making music videos just fuels that fire and I consider it a true blessing to be able to be involved on both sides, as a consumer and a creator.

What fascinated you about tattoo art?

I got my first tattoo at the age of 19 and my pathway into it was purely musical. Coming from a rock/metal background initially and then into punk rock, it was just part of that aesthetic. I knew from a very young age that I would get tattooed. I never thought that I would actually get into the practice of it – that happened completely organically.

As a technician, how do you find teaching pupils about subjects you actively work in?

It's wonderful to teach pupils about subjects and practises I am interested in. It's an amazing and very rewarding experience to ignite curiosity and appreciation in a pupil and to see how they absorb the influence and utilise it in their work. I find it immensely satisfying to see their landscapes expand and their journeys progress.

What tips do you have for creative pupils who want to pursue art as a profession?

I think it's very important that they don't get too fixated on one aspect of their creativity or on a particular discipline. I was an oil painter at school who went into architecture and became a professional graphic designer by total chance. I was educated in a time before computers so I would have laughed at anyone who suggested that Graphics would be the path I would end up taking professionally. In the creative world it is extremely hard to predict what route or routes you will end up taking unless you are 100% set on a particular vocation.

Favourite place in the world and why?

New York City without a shadow of a doubt. Aside from Italy, where my family is from, it's the place I have visited the most and I never grow tired of it. As soon as my feet touched the ground in New York the adoration was instant. It's the only place I have been that I would happily move to. I love London so much but New York City, and especially the Lower East Side, could easily steal me away - fortunately, my whole family love New York! San Francisco would be a close second but New York has my heart. My wife and I honeymooned in NY (which was her first time there), so it's got an even deeper meaning for us.

Favourite hobby and why?

Music would have to be my number one hobby. I have been in a band since I was 15. My first band was actually formed here at Highgate; we were a punk rock band that lasted for a couple of years. I currently sing and play guitar in a few bands, some of which I perform live with and others which are exclusively recording projects. I have a studio at home, so recording music is very easy and I record with people from all over. I am currently working with people from Canada, Spain and Germany.

I have also run a vinyl record label for 20 years. Whilst studying sound engineering, I started the label with a friend. We certainly didn't think it would last two decades! It has become somewhat of a cult-label and it is a true labour of love. We put out around 20 releases every year.

I always make sure to find the time to make art for pleasure. I do a lot of graphic design professionally for American companies (record labels, skateboard companies, clothing brands, toy manufacturers, publishers, film distributors, etc.), so I ensure that I draw and paint for myself too,

otherwise I lose the most important aspect of it. I have just finished a collection of 50 drawings that will be published next year in a collection of work by myself and my artist friend from Brooklyn. I also collaborate on large paintings with a good friend, where we simultaneously work on the same painting. We have been doing this for a few years and it has worked extremely well. We have had four exhibitions so far.

Tattooing would, of course, be another hobby of mine but I often like to step back from that for a couple of months at a time as I find it the most draining and, in a way, monotonous of the things I do. I also love building skateboard ramps with my three sons.

Favourite personal quality in people?

Loyalty. Whether it be in the professional or creative aspects of my life, or the social facet, I regard loyalty as the principal characteristic. I believe things like trust, persistence and reliability come under the umbrella of loyalty.

Most disliked human trait?

I would have to say jealousy, as not only is it all-consuming - it is a completely senseless, endless circle.

The best thing about Highgate School?

The uniqueness of the school. I think it's very rare to find a school that performs as well as Highgate does whilst having a truly open-minded philosophy. I have always thought that how an Art department is run in a school speaks volumes about the school as a whole. Highgate has a truly progressive Art department where ideas are allowed to flourish and intensify, which is a rare and precious thing. The pupils at Highgate have character, personality and charm whilst performing brilliantly academically, and it's that balance and freedom that make the school a happy and thriving place, not only at which to be a pupil, but to work. I think that, in that sense, Highgate is incomparable to other schools.



Together, We Shine



Former Head Boy and Girl, Tomer and Orla, hold up the winning TES awards.



2020 was a twisting, turning ride from start to finish, with extreme highs and lows. In this article we focus on one of those highs – when Highgate won a number of prestigious awards, marking decades of hard work from a dedicated team of staff, Governors and, of course, pupils.

Many independent schools are renowned for their top academic results, but what marks schools apart when it comes to national awards? Over the past 18 months, Highgate has been titled Independent Schools Senior School of the Year 2019, Independent School of the Year for Contribution to Social Mobility 2019, overall Independent School of the Year 2019 from ISOTY Awards, Independent School of the Year 2020 from the TES (Times Education Supplement), and last but by no means least, London Independent School of the Decade from The Sunday Times Parent Power.

Our collection of awards was not only given for year-on-year academic success, but for what sets us apart as leading independent School: a cultural edge inextricably linked to community and kindness. This is what Highgate's Head Adam Pettitt refers to often as one of our key values – a quality present in the 'staff DNA' which percolates throughout the School.

Alastair McCall, Parent Power editor from the Sunday Times, commended Highgate for its role in promoting social mobility and philanthropy: "It has played a key role as lead educational sponsor in the establishment of the London Academy of Excellence Tottenham, the Sunday Times Sixth Form College of the Year, seconding staff and expertise to help transform educational prospects in one of London's most deprived areas, and Highgate's Chrysalis Programme delivers timetabled classes, sessions in partner schools and events to thousands of children in more than 50 partner schools each year.

"Few schools can do more to help raise educational standards with head teacher Adam Pettitt even running marathons to raise money to buy laptops for children in schools less fortunate than his own to help deliver online learning in the age of coronavirus. It makes Highgate a thoroughly deserving winner of our London Independent School of the Decade award."

Adam Pettitt, Head, emphasised how important the continuation of partnership is for progress: "It is my fervent hope that other independent schools will be able to use this model of partnership to build on what we and others have been able to do. I'm absolutely delighted by these awards, and hugely proud – thank you very much!"

Social mobility and partnership

We were delighted to be recognised with the title of Independent School of the Year for Contribution to Social Mobility 2019 from ISOTY Awards.

At Highgate, our Chrysalis Programme involves Highgate teachers, with assistance from pupils where appropriate, delivering projects to state schools that range from summer schools to mentoring and revision, from university admissions test preparation (including Maths and Physics Aptitude Tests) to expert interview preparation for applications to Cambridge, Oxford and medical schools.



To activate our robust and rewarding programme to promote social mobility, over 80 Highgate teachers are involved in partnership teaching across 18 departments, either by giving timetabled classes, delivering sessions in partner schools or running events for partner school pupils and staff at Highgate.

We share our facilities with borough and county sports events to support youth exercise in one of the most deprived parts of the country. We have formed close bonds with Haringey Sport Development, leading to members of staff running teams for the local borough in athletics, water polo, aquathlon, rowing, tennis, hockey and weightlifting.

Chrysalis projects have an impact on thousands across London. During the last academic year, we have worked with 51 state schools and over 3,500 children from partner schools.

Highgate's decade of partnership teaching and unwavering dedication to social mobility was brought to bear with the establishment of the London Academy of Excellence in Tottenham (LAET), in east Haringey in 2017.

As LAET's lead educational sponsor, Highgate provides the full-time equivalent of almost 7 members of teaching staff. In August 2019, LAET's first cohort completed their studies and pupils achieved 70% A*-B in their A levels. More than half of LAET students won places at Russell Group universities, compared to the 1% of Tottenham school leavers in 2017.

In August 2020, 11 pupils from LAET accepted offers from Oxford or Cambridge University for courses commencing in September 2020 and over two thirds secured places at Russell Group universities.

Our Community Partnerships Director, Sarah Butterworth, says giving back is inextricably part of Highgate's ethos: "When you have so many different, diverse people in your

community, it is hard to think that only certain people have access here and only certain people have access there. It's really hard to even consider a school not doing this."

It was especially exciting news when our sibling school, London Academy of Excellence Tottenham, won the very well-deserved title of The Sunday Times Sixth Form College. Alastair McCall said of LAET: "The children have scored heavily in their A-levels both last year and again this year, with more than two-thirds of the students progressing to Russell Group universities and 11 gaining places at Oxford or Cambridge this summer, unprecedented numbers for the area. The dynamic partnerships with Spurs and Highgate School in the independent sector promise even greater things in the years ahead."

Cream of the careers crop

Our Careers and Employability team were thrilled to win the accolade of Best Careers Programme at the 2020 RateMyApprenticeship Awards.

Highgate's Careers programme, shaped by pupil, parent and employer feedback, is firmly embedded into the curriculum and contains a series of year group-specific activities including Q&A sessions (with professionals from diverse career pathways) and practice employment interviews. The benefits extend to pupils beyond Highgate: evening events such as the annual Careers Fair, held remotely in 2021, welcomes hundreds of pupils from across the capital to hear from delegates from a host of different industries.

Louise Shelley, Deputy Head, added: "Our aim has been to develop a dynamic Careers and Employability programme that responds to the rapidly evolving external markets and enables our pupils (and those from our partner schools) to develop the requisite employability skills and values to be successful."

Lifetime Achievement

Dr Andrew Szydlo was awarded with a silver Pearson Teaching Award for 47 years of sharing a passion for Chemistry inside and outside of the classroom, to the benefit of countless pupils and numerous colleagues within the school and the wider academic community.

He was presented the award by Head Adam Pettitt, accompanied in socially distanced fashion by former pupil Joe Connor, long standing colleague Director of Design Technology Andrew Thomson and Director of Partnership Sarah Butterworth. Dr Szydlo said on winning: "I am simply honoured that my work has been recognised and to have won Silver for the Lifetime Achievement Award."



Louise Shelley, Deputy Head (left), and Amandeep Jaspal, Careers and Employability Specialist, accepted the award for Best Careers Programme from the 2020 RateMyApprenticeship Awards.

Keep Calm and Zoom On

Across the world, our personal and professional lives have been turned upside down and inside out over the past year's pandemic. And it has been our job at Highgate to make sure the children and families here have felt as little disruption as possible. Everything from lessons, to co-curricular clubs and tutor groups moved to Highgate@Home.

The Guardian's Opinion Editor David Shariatmadari wrote a recent article discussing the most influential words of 2020. Top of the list: unprecedented, bubbles, zooming, pods, PPE and of course, COVID. If we told our January 2020 selves that twelve months on we would have seen a global pandemic sweep across the world resulting in a tragic loss of life, a frightening economic downturn, and the closure of schools, we genuinely would have thought it was a script from a far-fetched movie. However, here we are, resilient and resolutely dedicated to education, the nurturing of young minds, and helping our community.

In March 2020, Highgate was notified by the Government that all schools must close immediately and continue to provide on-site care for either vulnerable or keyworkers' children. But far from shut up shop at



Todd Lindsay has led the school's COBRA committee through countless changes and challenges over the last nine months as the School was forced to close for the first time since WW2.

Highgate School, action stations fired into work, with our team of 650 staff moving from the physical world to a virtual world to deliver normality and a top education to 1,850 pupils within 24 hours. This collective effort was named Highgate@Home.

From Teams through to Zoom, the Parent Portal and HERO, our online learning and communication resources have been standing up to the test of lockdown!

Our Head of Communications, Clare Marie Goldsworthy, said: "The complexity came not only from ensuring all children could dial in and have access to online learning resources, but that several hundred staff also knew how to operate remotely from Teams, and host interactive lessons. Some peoples' WiFi was better than others, and similarly, working spaces varied greatly, but a pervading sense of teamwork and camaraderie propelled us through unprecedented times!"

Quiz-time, Remote Random Acts of Kindness, and 200 fitness videos!

Aside from lessons, Highgate offers an all-encompassing holistic timetable of education which includes more than 150 co-curricular clubs, dozens of sports events and public performances... The list goes on. All of this needed to move online.

From live Zoom clubs such as Remote Random Acts of Kindness, to Kahoot, chess and Open Mic (a talent show), through to video tutorials from SpEx, music and Chemistry Club, we provided the digital equivalent, or creative alterations, of all activities. The School also added virtual STEM extension workshops for pupils to challenge themselves or complete additional class work.

Each week, a series of quizzes and interactive social events took place across the School. SpEx coach Mr Jack Kenmir



Various measures were put in place to improve safety around the school, including staff wearing PPE and decals to help control movement.

launched a popular Friday afternoon Sports quiz for the Lower School. Year 8, Sam, said: "Whilst being stuck at home 11 hours a day isn't great, Highgate@Home has really helped make the situation much better. Although there have been many things I have enjoyed about it, my personal favourite was the A Team meeting on Zoom with Mr Kenmir. I enjoyed this because it was great to catch up with all my mates and to see everyone who I have been unable to see since lockdown started. Mr Kenmir also made a quiz for us to do to see who knows our A Team the best! At the end, we talked about how we are keeping in shape for the forthcoming football season and Mr Kenmir gave us advice and some good ways on how to do so. Overall (even though I didn't win the quiz!) Highgate@Home has really made the most of a bad situation and has really helped me and everyone I've spoken to get through these testing times."

To keep children (and families and staff) physically fit and healthy, our team of SpEx coaches created over 200 fitness videos from yoga to dance, to strength training to tennis coaching. There was a video for everyone's fitness preferences!

Lockdown blogs, Art Survival Kits and social media mayhem!

Dozens of staff and pupils from all segments of the school took part in our series of lockdown blogs that were launched to capture different experiences during Highgate@Home.

Head of Lower School Mr Sam Pullan's blog 'You don't know what you've got 'til it's gone' describes how raw and abrupt the shift to remote learning was:

"Currently, it feels like we are in a giant 'laboratory of teaching.' It's early doors, but who knows what wonders will emerge before the referee checks his watch?"

Other titles aptly convey the sense of humour surrounding the new way of teaching and learning: 'Art from your armchair' and 'Zeus on Zoom' through to 'Pilot Episode,' and pupil reflections called 'Disbelief' and 'Isolation.'

Our sense of community kept everyone's spirits up. The Mills Centre team of creatives came up with some ingenious pick-me-ups: from DIY in the home lessons, to upcycling furniture through to the generous handing out of 'Art Survival Kits' to pupils.

Highgate's social media platforms were extra busy and brimming with Highgate@Home news; we had regular 'take over' features on Instagram such as 'The Show Must Go Online' – a virtual showcasing of pupils' amazing theatrical performances. We also launched a feature called 'Musical Highlights' to share harmonies, solos and cleverly blended ensembles from staff, pupils and alumni.

Similarly, pupils were delighted to spot themselves appearing in our 'Head's Photos' on Instagram which featured images Mr Pettitt took of Year 13 pupils as he toured the School on Thursday 23 March, the day all UK schools were told to close by the Government. These were shared daily across the Easter break to delight many of the students and celebrate their final few days in school as a year group, which had come to an abrupt end.

Book. Deliver. Read: orders prepped for delivery!

When the school was open but with health and safety restrictions, our librarian team operated a book delivery system. It involved pupils pre-ordering interesting reads from the library, and then having them delivered in goody bags at form time!

Prior to the pandemic, Highgate enjoyed a series of regular workshops from authors, journalists and industry professionals.

During lockdown, we have still been able to enjoy the benefits of our visiting experts via online seminars; there have been short story writing tutorials, poetry recitals, and historians 'Zooming' in to inspire pupils.

Events go digital

From our Open Days to parents' evenings to Remembrance Day and carol services at Christmas, all of our celebrations and annual events have taken place, but virtually. Remembrance Day was livestreamed via our web portal, and we made a Christmas carol service into a virtual card to share ahead of the festive break.

Our virtual Open Day needed to deliver all of the same detail, vibrancy and energy as the 'real life' events that usually take place over several weekends and evenings. We calculated a total of 148 minutes of video footage was shot to produce 53 short films, along with 26 live Q&A sessions across two events, where over 2,000 parents dialled in to attend virtually! Although this was a 360-degree change to our usual Open Day events, key elements proved to be more successful and easier to monitor. Top hits included Hunt the Griffin - our gamified children's feature - and the ease for parents being able to take part from the comfort of home, without travelling in the rain!



Open Day was run virtually for the first time ever.

Bridging the Poverty Gap



Adam Pettitt prepares to run from Highgate School to Tottenham Hotspur football stadium.

500km by bike, 200km by foot and 100km by water. That's just a snapshot of the distance covered by our two recent mammoth fitness fundraising events. 50 pupils, staff and parents took part to help raise money to support families in Tottenham impacted by the pandemic. Why Tottenham and why such a 'marathon' effort?

The London Academy of Excellence Tottenham is an academically selective free school for students aged 16-19. It was opened as part of the redevelopment of White Hart Lane in September 2017, with Highgate as its principal educational sponsor. LAET is located in Northumberland Park, one of the UK's most deprived areas: 51% of students at the school are eligible for free school meals at secondary school. In the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic, a number of members of the student body experienced bereavements in their immediate family, and many more saw their families lose their income.

In spring 2020, the Highgate community was pivotal in raising money to support children at LAET to meet the sudden changes brought on by the pandemic. By September 2020, it had become apparent that further, long-

lasting support would be needed to help these children navigate their new situations. LAET had identified that over half of the students at the school needed weekly, ongoing support for essentials such as food, clothing and utility bills.

Highgate's Head Adam Pettitt and LAE Tottenham's Headteacher Jan Balon donned their trainers and joined forces to successfully complete a marathon, running from Highgate to the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium. This spurred on pupils and staff from across the school community to take part with individual fitness challenges, including other marathons, half marathons, hikes, bike rides and swims.

Jan Balon said: "Thanks to those who have supported the LAET fundraiser, families will now receive support for food, rent and utility bills, and will be able to keep their children focused on their studies here at LAET."

Community Spirit

Much camaraderie and joviality occurred during the fundraising activities, evidence of the strength of Highgate and LAET's team spirit - in spite of the torrential rain on the morning of the event, COVID-19 social distancing restrictions and differing levels of fitness. Sam Pullan, Head of Lower School, who took part, said: "I think the final lap around the Spurs Stadium would have finished me off, being an Arsenal supporter."

Laps for Laptops

Marathon fundraisers are not a novel idea at Highgate either. Head Adam Pettitt is a seasoned marathon runner and raised over £75,000 back in June 2020 by running 96 laps (equivalent to 26 miles) around our school field, which meant we could buy over 350 laptops for state school pupils across London. His Laps for Laptops marathon addressed the digital poverty gap between those able to be schooled remotely and those who simply do not have the necessary resources.

Mr Pettitt said: "The COVID-19 crisis has done much to reveal existing inequalities and injustices in our society. The impact of 'digital poverty' on children's educations and futures might not be something that we'd considered in life pre-lockdown. I am incredibly proud of Highgate@Home - Highgate's remote learning operation - our teachers, pupils, parents and carers are working tirelessly to ensure learning continues during lockdown. One of the reasons that Highgate@Home is working so well is that all of our pupils have access to a computer or tablet: either belonging to their family, or borrowed from school. Some children at our partner schools are falling behind in their education because they have little or no access to a computer. Perhaps they are sharing a smartphone with another sibling - but it's hard to go to school on a phone."

Highgate is proud to support LAET, the Sunday Times Sixth Form College of the Year, and LAET is grateful for the support given by Highgate's parent and OC body. To find out more about the impact of donor support, or to get involved, please email Emily Clarke: Emily.Clarke@highgateschool.org.uk.

CONTENT WARNING: Misogyny, sexual harassment and sexual violence

Anti-Sexism and Sexual Violence

Summary and next steps

Societal and internal conversations over the past year have brought misogyny, sexism, sexual harassment and sexual violence to the forefront of our School life.

In Spring 2020, testimonies from current and former pupils raised sexual abuse and harassment allegations which took place at Highgate School, first alongside other schools and universities on the Everyone's Invited website, and later in an open letter to Highgate School's governing body.

We - Dr Enya Doyle, Diversity and Inclusion Projects Officer and Emily Clarke, Development Director - are aware that you will have received information from the School through the Development Office, and indeed from the OC Committee itself. As such, we will not cover the content of the testimonies of sexual harassment and sexual violence, principally (but not exclusively) against girls and women, save to say that they are harrowing.

The Governors have ultimate responsibility for the safety and wellbeing of all pupils (and staff) and take these responsibilities seriously. As you will know, the governing body commissioned an independent review, led by Dame Anne Rafferty, a retired Appeal Court Judge, to investigate the testimonies and the School's safeguarding - processes and culture - over the last ten years; OCs, pupils, parents and staff (current and former) have been invited to make additional submissions.

This review is underway. Of course, we want this process to be concluded as quickly as possible, but need to allow it time to be done properly and thoroughly.

We haven't wanted to pre-empt the findings of the review and have deliberately not answered questions in the press, as we believe the answers need to come from the review itself. We have, however, felt it critical to acknowledge and to apologise for hurt, and to show in our actions what we will do find answers and to make changes.

We will be implementing the review's recommendations: the publication of the report will not be the end of our work on sexual harassment and sexual violence, but a marker on a journey which we - School and society in general - are all on.

Parallel to the independent review is the work the School has got underway, summarised in the Anti-Sexism and Sexual Violence Plan, the final version of which you should have already received. In this plan, there is an emphasis on the re-working of our teaching of personal, social and health education and relationships and sex education (such as working in liaison with specialist agencies, using outside speakers, looping in pupil voice to evaluate the effectiveness of these programmes), and on staff training.

We will continue to update you and are very grateful for the interest so many of you have shown and the support you have offered to the School. We have held a number of OC focus groups and welcome the assistance offered.

We as a school are utterly committed to ensuring that young people grow up safely and happily. We very much hope that the offers of help and support which the School has made will continue to be taken up, and that survivors and their friends will continue to be in touch with us.

Emily Clarke
Development Director

Dr Enya Doyle
Diversity and Inclusion Projects Officer

School Chaplain Father Robert Easton



Lead editor Gareth Creagh caught up with School Chaplain Father Robert Easton.

Tell us a bit about your life. Were there any defining moments?

Born in Glasgow, educated at Bryanston School in Dorset, and then Bristol University and University College, Cardiff. Much later on, I read theology at Oxford as part of my theological training. I'm the third of four children to Stephen, a printer, and Fiona, a florist. My eldest brother, Mark, is the Home Editor of BBC; William is an artist living in Stockholm; and my baby sister, Susie, works at a high-level in hospital administration in East Anglia.

Signal dates in my adult life would include:

November 29th 1987, when I first met my wife-to-be via Telex. I thought Kai Norris was a fifty-something Chinese American man... until I actually spoke to her. We were engaged exactly two years later.

July 6th 1991. Kai and I were married in New Hampshire – the following day we took most of the wedding party to a Boston Redsox game.

July 1st 2000. On a sweltering day not made for cassocks, I was made a deacon in St Paul's Cathedral. The next year I was priested in Bethnal Green. I spent my curacy in St Mary's, Stoke Newington, before becoming the chaplain to Brighton College for fifteen years. I joined Highgate School in August 2019. The Church is my vocation, but I enjoyed two careers beforehand. I've had three careers. I started out as a journalist, working as a reporter for BBC Radio Solent and helping out with a couple of shows on Radio 4. Then, in the mid-1980s, I got an offer to run an office for the British Library in Chicago, which required me to travel to all the major libraries in the States. I then spent a further eight years running the American arm of a British academic publishing company and running a university press in upstate New York. In the mid-1990s, Kai and I returned to the UK. I worked for an academic journal publisher before I was recommended for training for the priesthood.



Dec 26th 2003. The tsunami that killed 30,000 Sri Lankans kick-started Extra Cover, a charity that I co-run with a colleague from Chichester. Extra Cover has raised more than £1 million for marginalised children in south-west Sri Lanka, providing clean water, healthy food, and proper sanitation to some thirty schools. We have set up several schools for children with learning disabilities. Throughout my life I have volunteered to work with children and adults with learning disabilities – I am never happier than when in their company. I've been out to Sri Lanka more than fifty times and have taken some 350 sixth formers to carry out charity work there. Do look at www.extracover.org.uk for further details.

October 21st 2013. This was the date of my first of two cancer operations – this one for kidney cancer, the one in August of 2019 for prostate cancer. I've never been a poster child for rude health. I was the sickly child of the family, with severe asthma and eczema and very poor eyesight. These conditions, plus both oncological hiccoughs have helped my ministry, however.

What were your first impressions of Highgate?

Highgate has this slight mischief about it. It's awash with funny, whipcrack smart staff

and pupils, and doesn't teach to the test. The Chapel is glorious, my chaplaincy an oasis, and the entire staff are so wonderfully supportive.

How did you find the lockdown? How have you had to adapt in your work and what challenges have you had to overcome?

I have been incredibly lucky. Lockdown has been a strain, but a manageable one. I have been mostly frustrated by the inability to travel internationally – not least to Sri Lanka. Last summer, I travelled by train and bus to all 48 English counties, conducting research for a novel I'm writing. As I'm visually impaired, I have a free bus pass for any local buses. Lots of chug-a-lug buses, therefore, through the countryside. I miss social interaction. I miss singing hymns. I miss the pub. I have lost a couple of good friends to COVID, and that has hurt the most.

What's the most enjoyable aspect of your job?

What's not to love? I get paid to talk about things that matter to me to the entire Senior School every week, to dance silly jigs with the Pre-Prep, to listen to and laugh with the support staff, to work in a department of huge intellects who can also teach up a storm, to bounce from one area of school to another, and to attend plays and sporting

fixtures and concerts. It is a huge privilege to serve such a wonderful community, and to hold them up to God, as I say my Daily Office.

Who inspires you the most and why?

I am inspired by ordinary people doing extraordinary things – the world's good Samaritans, acting out of kindness, with no thought for their own reputation or well-being. Volunteers of all hues inspire me. Desmond Tutu is a living saint.

You're a keen supporter of the Chicago Cubs baseball team. How did this come about?

When I was in Chicago in the mid-1980s I would go and watch a few Cubs baseball games every season. I love the camaraderie of the fans, the statistics which are on a par with cricket, and the taste of a hotdog (with celery salt), washed down with a can of Old Style on the bleachers of Wrigley Field. In 2015 I vowed that I would travel to the States every year and watch my beloved Cubs. 2020 was a wash-out of course, and 2021 will be too, but I subscribe to MLB TV and can watch all 162 games from my study. *Eamus catuli!*

What piece of parting advice might you offer a Year 13 student?

Throughout your life, think about what you're purposed to do, and then strive with every sinew to achieve that purpose. Don't "try everything once" – steer well clear of that pill at Glastonbury – but do be adventurous. Always have a space in your heart for the Spirit to move you, and always have a bottle of wine on hand for moments of spontaneous celebration. Tread gently on this Earth. Avoid sycophants and bullies. Be kind. And give thanks every day!



Consummate organiser, watchful listener, by-word for loyalty, friend to the unsung and ultimate strategist, Alice Dickens has been my secretary since July 2007. Ally, support and scrutineer, she leaves Highgate as a colleague known for her Stakhanovite work, unstinting dedication, fiendish memory, utter discretion and green-fingered expertise.

Alice arrived from Highgate's own Junior School to become the Head Master's secretary knowing how the Senior School and its leadership were viewed from the outside; this insight has shaped the, careful, attentive and (mostly) patient way she interacted with those needing, or seeking (not always the same thing), contact with her boss.

But first Alice wanted to get to grips with the novice Head Master, still finding his own bearings, and his colleagues, his family, his routines and his diary. Alice's immediate predecessor had left a blank, some might say pitted, page on which she could construct the latter. It is difficult to know if it was the rich experience of working for MI5 or the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, or a restlessly energetic Mark James, which proved to be the recipe for re-righting the chaotic schedule of a Head who said yes to everything. Family birthdays, French name days, running schedules and dietary preferences were quietly absorbed and factored in, and a working week took shape. In between the regular meetings, assemblies, trips to Pre-Prep and Junior Schools, HMC jollies and Governors' meetings, discreet reminders to go shopping for presents or to order flowers appeared; fellow Heads who were friends and could be trusted got through, whilst others waited. However crowded a day might look, Alice would find time when it was really needed, and that daily judgement rested on her reading of people she took time to know.

Alice Dickens

Alice has a ruthless proof-reader's eye and the hungry reader's elegant turn of phrase: a lexicon of phrases to be avoided was compiled, especially those aimed at cajoling would-be referees into working to our deadlines; unwise lines in my references were hinted at. In the days when UCAS (pronounced to rhyme with 'mucus') testimonials passed my desk, Alice's edits ensured we didn't go over the dreaded 4000-character limit or commit stylistic faux pas. Ten years' worth of The Cholmeleian was enhanced under the latter-day Dickens's marker pen.

Those who know Alice will immediately recognise the portrait of a consummate organiser who supported the work and life of a busy person; those closest to her will know that she has been at the heart of big events and key-stone projects. As the Chrysalis Partnership was born, Alice helped to organise our first state school-independent school conference where we took our first steps on the public stage to promote partnerships; when prize-giving ceremonies were re-worked to inject more formality and splendour into the celebration of intellectual achievement, Alice devised the hiring of academic dress for teachers, and its complex return; when inspectors arrived in 2011, Alice stepped in to ensure a ready supply of Ritz-standard refreshments and, as the only home-team colleague permitted to enter the inspectors' den, made the most of this opportunity to point the inspection team to jewels of teaching in the Highgate crown they might have otherwise have missed; when Highgate's Governors took the decision to open a sixth form academy in Tottenham, and needed someone to recruit its first pupils, Alice re-engineered already-fixed diaries to let me join Highgate's Chrysalis Team to speak at Year 11 assemblies, attend open evenings and appear

at parental Q&A sessions. Look behind the scenes of every major event or drive (and pretty much every party) in the last fourteen years, and you will find Alice.

The work of this Head's Secretary is not, however, confined to complex diary management or supporting (or, in Alice's case, devising) major events and projects: Alice has been the lynch pin of teacher recruitment, a role which many schools have passed to other colleagues. While administrative skills are essential – in the pre-digital days of the TES, hitting the 4pm advertising deadline, for example – Alice has ensured that a patient, warm, welcoming voice has seen applicants from tentative enquiry through to staff induction; a weather eye has ensured applications don't get overlooked, especially when accompanied by information about a parallel application elsewhere. On the day of interview, Alice has watched and encouraged applicants, deftly stepping in where arrangements, however well laid, have come adrift. With close to 90% of the Senior School's teachers appointed under Alice's watch, it's no surprise that she takes such a pride in the warmth, loyalty, success and popularity of those colleagues she has had a guiding hand in bringing to Highgate.

It goes without saying that Alice has revelled in her work because she loves the company of young people: there's been fulfilment in seeing first her erstwhile Junior School charges and then their successors pick their way through adolescence and young adulthood, organising their commendations, book prizes and graduation scrolls, and hearing of their journeys through university and beyond. Alice counts it as a success if the diary allows me time to spend face to face with the young people the School is made for, and heartily approves of me teaching a class or two, especially if it helps her master a new language (German is the current project), or spending days in Lille with Year 7.

It must come as something of a surprise that Alice is heading off to retirement given how intertwined her life has been with Highgate, but she does so to concentrate energies on grandmotherly duties, and on supporting the inevitably busy, complex life of young parents Alex, Romilly and Alice's daughter, and her husband, Tom. The organisational instincts will no doubt be much called for, as will the sensitivity, kindness and wicked good humour which have been my and others' undemanding, selfless companions. Highgate has, of course, changed and developed on Alice's watch, becoming a more welcoming, more thoughtful and more considerate place: I won't be alone in missing her keenly or in wondering what life after Alice will be like, or in thanking her for always and unquestioningly – to use the Highgate vernacular – going beyond, and in wishing her every happiness and fulfilment in many, many healthy years ahead. *Ich bedanke mich recht herzlich bei Dir, meiner lieben Alice.*

Adam Pettitt



Phil Harrison

It is with immense gratitude and sadness that we say goodbye to Phil Harrison following 10 years of service to Highgate School. Having studied Geography at Edinburgh University, Phil's route into teaching was an unusual one, first embarking on life as a sommelier with the aspiration to become a 'Master of Wine', before settling on a career in education following a PGCE in London.

On to Highgate, and his impact was immediately felt by both teachers and pupils as Phil threw himself wholeheartedly into school life. Phil is possessed of great reliability and unquestionable commitment, qualities that have benefited the academic, pastoral and co-curricular life of the school significantly.

His rock-solid pedagogy, command of the subject and the confidence with which he delivered his lessons meant not only that his lessons were a pleasure to observe but, more importantly, he was an inspiration to his pupils. Mr Harrison's intellect and passion for geographical literature is formidable and, coupled with an extraordinary ability to get the best out of his students, Geography saw a sharp uptake in numbers of pupils wanting to read the subject at university and, more significantly, making successful applications.

His Geography classroom was a place of both scholarship and dry wit and, in saying goodbye, we bid farewell to one of the most creative thinkers in the school, one who was often the first to be asked to deliver pedagogical INSET to the wider community. The Geography Department will miss Phil enormously, but our own teaching will continue to be immeasurably enriched by him.

Beyond the classroom, Phil has been a stalwart of Geography trips and Duke of Edinburgh expeditions, as well as being a steadfast contributor to SpEx by delivering football, cricket, climbing and Heath runs, amongst other sports.

Phil has held a variety of jobs at the school: from Deputy Head of Middle School and Assistant to Director of E-learning, to his current role as Head of Grindal House, the development of which will be his most significant legacy.

Grindal House, often mocked for its annual position in the Charlie Cup, has flourished in no small part due to Phil's leadership over the last six years. Alongside a series of warm, supportive and skilled tutor teams, Phil quickly earned a high degree of trust and respect from pupils and parents and shaped a formidable House spirit that remains strong to this day.

He is always quick to offer up his time and experience with staff and senior leaders, who have worked closely with Phil, and testify to him being a source of sage advice when discussing school-wide pastoral issues and policy development. He is unbelievably dedicated to the care of Grindal pupils. No House Meeting is ever a dud, and his trademark commitment and preparation

means that important and topical issues are tackled sensitively and always in a creative, thoughtful and engaging manner. Hundreds of pupils have flourished under his stewardship and Phil's work is best evidenced through student testament:

"Being a member of Grindal is part of my identity, and a badge I am extremely proud to wear. To me, what is most special about Grindal is the support within the House. It will always be better than other Houses, from the pastoral care to the close-knit community between the year groups. Mr Harrison always does a great job ensuring that we look after each other, enjoy ourselves and ensure the House spirit is up."

In short, Phil is an exceptional Head of House in every sense of the word, and we are supremely lucky to have enjoyed his company at Highgate, and to call him friend and neighbour. Phil's decision to take up the Head of Sixth Form at Bancroft's School, much closer to where he lives, will enable him to spend more time with his growing family. We wish him every happiness and success.

Mark Beloe



Colin Henderson

In 2009, Colin joined us as Head of Games, moving back to London after twenty years of teaching in Sussex and Hampshire.

Returning to the borough he grew up in, Colin quickly took the lead at Highgate, demonstrating an undeniable love for his subject and an ambition for leading change at our school.

He was Director of Sport and Exercise for ten years and will leave a lasting legacy. Admired and respected by his pupils, Colin found a way to inspire a generation of athletes at Highgate, and in doing so has been instrumental in producing successful teams and individuals in a number of sports. His first love, athletics, has been something of a masterpiece over the last ten years. Under his tutelage we have seen borough, county and national champions thrive. Pupils will miss Colin's dedication, his unwavering energy and the trust they have placed in him to do his utmost for them, no matter

what their level of performance. Finding ways of supporting children and young people in neighbouring schools in Haringey has been something Colin has held close to his heart, and the responsibility for finding opportunities for all has been one that he has committed to wholeheartedly. Colin's warmth, passion and professionalism have been appreciated by both pupils and staff at Highgate, and his departure to a promoted post at Notting Hill and Ealing High School will certainly leave a hole in our School community. We know he will continue to do everything he can to place pupils at the heart of all that he does.

Stephanie Pride



Karen Norris

Karen joined Highgate and the Economics department in September 2003, working with Highgate stalwarts including Dave Amatt, Simon Grills and David Rey; and latterly, James Stenning, Aniket Gocoldas and Antonia Burrows, to name but a few.

Always incisive and well prepared for her lessons, Karen thrived in this academic sixth form environment. As well as being a highly talented economist, Karen demonstrated a real aptitude for pastoral care and became Head of School House in 2006.

An excellent communicator, Karen was always extremely popular with parents as well as pupils. Karen ran a tight ship with School House and oversaw an incredible run of Charley Cup victories (the cup awarded for House competitions each year). Karen finished her tenure as a successful senior Head of House with her usual boundless energy, bringing in a raft of developments and initiatives.

As well as being a valued economist, Head of House and a stalwart Tottenham supporter, Karen was Assistant to the Community Partnerships Director. Karen showed a deep commitment to our local Highgate community, serving on the organising committee for The Fair in the Square every summer and pioneering the Coffee and

Computers scheme, which paired members of the local community who had technology conundrums with Highgate pupils of all ages keen to flex their IT skills. She encouraged the founding of a school-based scheme for young entrepreneurs with a social conscience, where she combined her Economics subject expertise with her altruistic values. Through her work as a governor at The Crest Academy in Brent and in her dedication to the pupil fundraising committee and pupil volunteering scheme SHINE, she galvanised support for those who most needed it.

It was always going to be a huge loss when Karen and husband Matt decided to work abroad, with Karen securing a role at the prestigious Dubai College. Karen is a first-class schoolteacher in the broadest sense of the word. She gave freely of her time and energies in the various areas of school life mentioned above, but she will also be missed as a great friend who offered support to so many within the Common Room. We wish Karen and Matt the very best in their adventures.

Alistair Tapp





Antonia Burrows

Does anyone remember a computer programme called Skype? In 2017, and in lieu of Zoom, it was how Antonia remotely interviewed to be Head of Economics at Highgate.

Although the strength of her application spoke for itself, I went into the interview thinking that she had a tough gig ahead, given the quality of the other applicants who had the advantage of being able to visit the school in person and teach a lesson. Antonia emerged so clearly as the front-runner, I pondered - contrary to all of my previous experience and received wisdom - whether something about remote interviewing actually gave applicants an unfair advantage. Ahead of meeting her and in advance of the start of the academic year, I decided that she couldn't possibly be as good as I remembered, or my interview notes suggested. It turns out she was better. For the next four years, Antonia modelled excellence in the classroom and as Head of Department in everything she did.

Absolutely nothing appears to faze Antonia. She revolutionised the Economics syllabus in her first year, making it uncompromisingly technical and academic. Elsewhere, whether rejigging timetables, learning to teach A Level Politics, patiently instructing new colleagues how to teach Economics, mentoring record numbers of university applicants, public speaking to practically any audience I threw at her with insufficient notice, or requiring almost her entire self-isolating faculty to remotely teach pupils who were in school - all of these things she took on with a smile and then aced. I still wonder if there is a problem out there which Antonia couldn't crack and make it look easy into the bargain.

Antonia's colleagues understandably think the world of her. Perhaps it was the verve with which she uninvited them to a party due to not understanding COVID regulations, or the celebratory out-of-date pink fizz she laid on for them in the office? I've also heard that her extolling the virtues of recyclable nappies, her holding court on Taiwanese dating rituals, or listening to her expressed penchant for dubious middle-aged US politicians is well-worth the time investment. Antonia's co-curricular expertise aside, her colleagues comment that she is a kind, supportive, funny and clever Head of Department, whom they adore and respect enormously. I suspect the best mark of Antonia's leadership is demonstrated by the number of teachers who have independently told me that she has transformed their practice; likewise, the number of pupils who have said Ms Burrows is the best teacher they've ever had seems to confirm her exceptional talent.

Antonia, her husband, Daniel, and their toddler, Abe, are relocating to Korea - and we will miss her. She mentioned she would be happy to get back in touch with Highgate on her return but, failing that, and if she finds herself running a school, I'll join the long line of Antonia's former Highgate colleagues who will happily work for her.

James Newton



Robbie Leigh

Robbie joined Highgate from the Perse in 2016 to become our Head of Religion and Philosophy. He made an immediate impression.

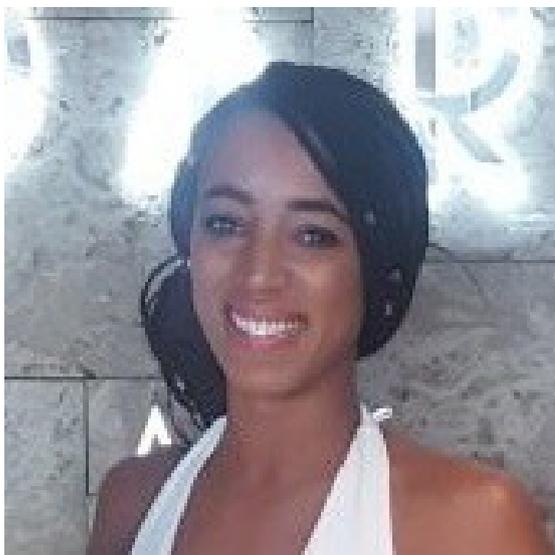
His boyish good looks, ever-present smile and serenity under pressure seemed to make him a perfect double-oh agent. It gets better: when I once explained that he'd need to sign the Official Secrets Act to have eyes on something sensitive, Robbie casually replied that he'd already done it "back in my GCHQ days". If that isn't the very definition of cool, I don't know what is. With Daniel Craig set to retire, I wondered if Robbie was leaving us to serve whoever took over from Judie Dench as M, but I soon realised there was one problem: Robbie is just too tall to be a spy. Though he ducks under door frames with a stylish shimmy, which only adds to his bravura, his loftiness does make him stand out. Thinking about it, he's also far too nice to be a spy. Robbie shows us all how far you can go with pure kindness and patience. I'm sure he could kill a baddie at 100 yards with a Walther PPK cleverly concealed in his stack of essays, but Robbie would be far more likely to sit the miscreant down, explain the error of their ways and convince them to take A level Theology. If Robbie then taught said baddie as part of the bargain, you could almost guarantee them a top grade, as few of us are so gifted in the classroom. Indeed, whilst a lot of excellent teachers radiate infectious enthusiasm, Robbie

is also the sort of person who somehow makes you cleverer by proximity. Having a brain the size of a planet and a PhD from Cambridge probably helps.

Before this valette slides any further into the realms of amorous confession, I should add that his departmental colleagues share my professional crush and even measure the week by him: from Monday's purposeful, deliberate and inspirational Robbie, through Wednesday's more frantic, fast-paced and "ticking off jobs" Robbie, and concluding with Friday's giddy, delirious but still inspirational Robbie. His troops agree that he has made the department a warm, accepting and welcoming place, where mutual respect, intellectual endeavour, scholarship and merciless teasing are equally prized.

Everything Robbie does, he does with complete commitment, enthusiasm and brilliance, whether it's being tall, being kind, being clever, being a teacher or leading his department. He'd be wasted in MI6 or anywhere else where his gift for giving wasn't front and centre; on this basis, and though we will miss him at Highgate, the charitable sector deserves Robbie.

James Newton



Chrystal Cunningham

Whilst there is clear evidence that the Highgate Physics department existed in a time before Chrystal (BC?), it certainly *feels* like that can't be true.

Having been fortunate enough to be sat next to Chrystal since my first day at Highgate, with desks of respective tidiness (and not in my favour), I was immediately and consistently intimidated. The first thing you notice is the intense efficiency of a one Chrystal Cunningham.

It is rare that you meet someone who can leave school in time to beat the traffic (traffic being inefficient and thus unacceptable) without fail, whilst simultaneously teaching a full timetable of incredible lessons and marking perfectly, *and* planning the next lessons in exacting detail, *and* generating bespoke resources of the highest standard, *and* meeting a cascade of her students and being one of our science specialists for Learning Support, *and* being assistant Head of Sixth form and mentoring new teachers, *and* running the Afro-Caribbean cultural appreciation society *and* so many more things. All of this whilst never leaving even a single piece of paper on her desk at the end of that day to carry over till tomorrow.

In fact, this was so infuriating that I admit I began to look for a flaw, if only to preserve my own self-worth. It was through these investigations I learned that she was also studying for a master's

degree in education, conducting research that combined her insights from beginning teaching via Teach First, to allow her to unpick the specific needs of SEN learners in science. Presumably, this all happened in the spare time between breaths. In fact, if I hadn't found out that her dog, Atlas, is an unstoppable force of destruction and chaos, that even she cannot control, I don't think I could have recovered.

But it is also from this adjacent (and now Perspex shielded) vantage point that I've heard the insight with which she speaks about students. I have witnessed her wisdom regarding the issues that hold back teaching and seen the willingness to endlessly answer her colleagues' questions. I've also seen the endless stream of cards, notes and gestures of thanks and kindness adorning the surrounding walls and filing cabinets. She knows and deeply cares for her students and tutees, and they do too.

Having seen through three heads of department here at Highgate, she leaves to not only run a Physics department, but to build one from scratch. A department that will truly know no time before her. What a lovely thought indeed.

William Whyatt

Tom Barfield



Tom taught his lessons during lockdown with an idyllic cottage in the background, his face framed by wisteria.

This seemed to suit him perfectly, reflecting his serene and gentle manner; he has been described by one colleague as someone who has stepped straight out of a story book.

He joined the school three years ago and quickly established himself as an outstanding teacher. He is highly knowledgeable and passionate about his subject, and he knows how to get the best out of his pupils. His sixth formers, when asked to describe him, said: "serious and fun at the same time," "incredibly witty," and "he should have been a writer of satires." They also love how motivating he is: he makes them think, he holds them in high regard, and he is so proud of them when they do well. He ran the English extension sessions (so knowledgeably that he could step in to cover any period), the Shakespeare on Film Society, and the Hopkins Society. As well as his academic prowess, he has exceptional emotional intelligence, making everyone feel like he has the time for them.

He became joint Head of Department in 2019, just in time for the pandemic, and he proved himself to be the perfect person for the role, supporting us with patience and kindness, and radiating calm. When in doubt about what course to take, I find myself asking, 'What Would Tom Do?'

And, as if this wasn't enough, Tom has a deep interest in helping others and in pedagogy, as shown by the educational charity he established in Iraq. He took teachers from Highgate to the school he set up there to share good teaching practice.

Tom will be leaving a huge gap behind, as a head of department, teacher and friend. Bromsgrove is very lucky to have him, and we wish him all the best there.

Odette Orlans

Alex McBride

On sitting down to pen this Vale, Alex said to me “You don’t have to make it funny. I’m not funny.”

Alex’s fellow Biology teachers don’t all agree with him though. They universally describe him as funny, kind, caring, extremely passionate and a ferociously intelligent man. In fact, he is the “most intelligent man with a topknot” that Will Atkins has ever met.

Alex joined the school in September 2015 fresh out of Clare College Cambridge. He threw himself wholeheartedly into every aspect of school life and began to develop his teaching skills very quickly - successfully completing a PGCE in his first year at the school. Alex’s innate warmth, kindness and patience have allowed him to build strong relationships with his pupils, who in return have a huge amount of respect for him. His willingness to give his time to help others has never waned, nor has his enthusiasm for discussions around obscure parts of Biology he has stumbled across.

Over the last six years, it has become apparent that there is very little that Alex cannot do – both in the classroom and beyond. He became the teacher in charge of academic medicine as well as the Science EPQ coordinator and Biology extension lead teacher. He sings, he plays the cello, he plays the piano, he speaks Spanish, he juggles, he kayaks, he’s an avid conservationist and champion for the environment, he’s a pro on a skateboard and on roller skates (not at the same time – although knowing Alex he’d probably master this if given a spare couple of hours and a crash helmet). He has boundless enthusiasm for all his hobbies which many pupils have been fortunate enough to share with him through the multitude of TAAs he has been involved with.

There is no doubt that Alex’s departure will leave a gaping hole in the biology department - he will be sorely missed. While this snippet of writing about Alex may not have been a particularly funny read, it is sincere and genuine. Two other adjectives which have been used to describe Alex.

Gemma Gulliford



Martin Weaver



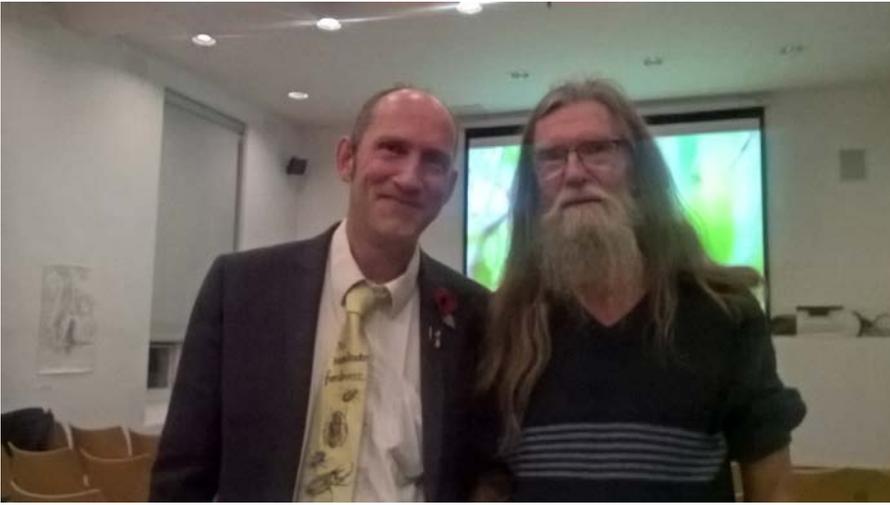
Martin taught Biology at Highgate from 1975 to 2004 and he was Head of Biology for much of that time.



To say that a teacher inspired generations of students is an over-used cliché but in this case it happens to be true. I should know – I was one of them back in the 1980s when Highgate was not always the pleasant, liberal and academic place that it is today. Lessons with Martin were a rare and precious exception. He combined a fearsome intellect with a tremendous passion for his subject, and of course his trademark shoulder length (and sometimes waist length) hair and beard only added to his guru-like status. He was a Renaissance man, a polymath who could strip down a car, play the French horn, discuss Medieval poetry and, of course, expound on any topic in the biology syllabus with a degree of impromptu skill that still has me full of admiration, having taught the subject for 31 years myself. I remember watching him pick up the topic of ‘the genetics of antibody diversity’ in response to a question from a curious A level student and carry the ball, without hesitation repetition or deviation, for the duration of the lesson, never for one second failing to engage with his somewhat academically varied audience. In the main, Martin’s teaching was an object lesson in the traditional Socratic

approach – to arrive at a common and preconceived destination through question and answer, an intellectual rally in which the ball of knowledge pinged back and forth with real bounce between teacher and students. Martin was also the only teacher who allowed us to call him by his first name, which, back in the stuffy formality of ‘Haringey’s most expensive comprehensive school’ in the 1980’s was remarkable in itself.

Fast forward to 1990, and to my surprise I am being interviewed for a job at Highgate School by none other than Martin himself. I feared the worst, given that – clearly irked by my habitual lack of attention in the sixth form – he had written on my final report: ‘He rarely shows any interest in the subject and I doubt whether he will pursue it beyond A level.’ I took great pleasure in quoting Martin back at himself after he had decided to employ me at Highgate. As a rookie teacher, my in-service training was a weekly debrief consisting of Martin buying me a Friday lunchtime pint – often followed by another from Mike Morelle, then Head of Chemistry, an approach which has been safely (or sadly?) consigned to history in



pupil... Outside the classroom he was a loyal tutor in Northgate under the leadership of his great friend Richard Halstead.

Martin continued to teach after leaving Highgate, close to his Lincolnshire home at Boston Grammar School, where he clearly made a similarly deep impression on staff and pupils – a moving and amusing obituary in *The Guardian* newspaper's 'Other Lives' (March 26th 2021) reveals this to be the case. In spite of not having the mandatory teaching qualification, the head teacher employed Martin anyway, recognising his talent – this was amply and quickly repaid when, only a week after joining the school there was an Ofsted inspection in which his was one of only two observed lessons that was judged 'outstanding'.

The last time I saw Martin, he and Miki had come to an after-school talk I gave on the *Wildlife of France* – I had no idea they were coming, but as I saw Gandalf the Grey out of the corner of my eye it was undeniable that he was there. A couple of pints at the Red Lion discussing his gradual retirement and in particular his recent exploits re-roofing his daughter and son-in-law's house was the last time I was to see him. Along with hundreds – quite possibly thousands – of former students, I grieve for the fact that I will not be able to be educated, informed and entertained by this remarkable man again.

Will Atkins

today's more professional CPD times... Working under Martin I was able – finally – to appreciate the maestro at work, deploying the techniques I referred to earlier in his lessons which appeared so artfully lacking in construction, but which were anything but. Miles upon miles of overhead projector transparencies proved that he was always well prepared with materials and resources, reinforcing his superb communication skills. Students passed on to the next stage of their education but Martin remained, immensely loyal to a school that did not always appreciate his worth – shown not least by the instructions to get his hair cut, the order being unique in that it was directed to a member of staff, rather than to a pupil. Martin might have exploited his popularity with the students to undermine the authority – and the authoritarianism – of

'old' Highgate, but he did not, to his huge credit. He was renowned for keeping a pet squirrel, his predilection for road-kill, both as an educational resource and afterwards for consumption, and for being a sport when charity week demanded that he had his hair cut in front of the entire school – resulting in a metamorphosis from George Harrison to Mick Jagger. I well remember the camaraderie of staff and sixth form students on the annual field course he led to North Wales, where Martin's deployment of a few judicious words in Welsh meant a friendly reception in the pubs of Porthmadog, where we would then leave the boys to their own devices while we went off to another hostelry up the road. All this after the boys had been allowed to swim the strait from Ynys Mon (Anglesey) to the small outcrop known as Puffin Island. Well, he never lost a

Sandip Choudhury



Sandip sadly passed away late 2019 and due to unforeseen circumstances, no OC knew of the funeral details until after the event.

He is survived by his mother. Please get in contact with Markand Patel (NG 1998) if you would like to get in contact with Mrs Choudhury.

Sandip started his time at Highgate in the Junior School after which he moved to India for a few years. He returned the Senior School in the Sixth Form. Many of us were lucky enough to know him from the Junior and happily surprised to greet him again in the Sixth Form.

Sandip was a kind soul and always had a smile on his face. He made time for all that knew him and went the extra mile to make people feel welcomed. Over the years, at every company he worked at, he left a lasting impression with both his ability and his humanity. His mother said that there were over a hundred of his ex-colleagues present for his send off and knows that there would have been a similar number of OCs had we known.

With a heavy heart and extremely fond memories we say goodbye to our friend and classmate. He will be truly missed by all.

Honours

In 2020, **Jeffrey Pinnick (WG 1948)**, former chairman of Yad Vashem UK and former chair of the Yom Hashoah Forum, was made OBE for his services to Holocaust Commemoration and Education. He said the honour "came as a complete surprise and I was so grateful that I had even been considered worthy of such an award... Hopefully it will also reflect on the amazing survivors and refugees of the Holocaust, as well as the wonderful people I have had the privilege of working with on these causes over all this period." Jeffrey has been involved in the fields of Holocaust Commemoration and Education in an honorary capacity for the last 40 years.

Golden Wedding

Anthony (NG 1937) and Elizabeth New celebrated their Golden Wedding quietly at home in Petersfield in the midst of the Coronavirus lockdown. They were married in Portsmouth Cathedral on 11th April 1970, and have a son and a daughter and four grandchildren. 'Tony' enjoyed a career as an architect specialising in church building and conservation. He served as consulting architect to Derby Cathedral and many London churches. Already the author of several books on buildings and on stamp design and collecting, he recently published an illustrated Anthology of Hampshire Churches, at the age of 94. He attributes his lasting enthusiasm for these subjects to the support of masters Dr R.D. Reid and J.L. Thomas during his time at Westward Ho!

Wedding

MCMILLAN-BINNS. On March 6, 2021, **Duncan McMillan (MG 1967)** to **Christine Dorothy Binns** at St Barnabas Church, Khandallah, Wellington, New Zealand. COVID-19 restrictions in the Wellington Region meant that a maximum

of 100 people was allowed to the function and 80 inside the church. Stuart Evans provided the couple with a school emblem. Duncan was saddened that his son James, brother Neil and other relatives and friends were unable to attend because of border restrictions, while sudden alert level changes in New Zealand, six days before the wedding and lasting a week, meant that Christine's son, Russell, and close friends in Auckland were unable to attend. However, many aspects of the wedding still went ahead. The church was bedecked with flags and emblems representing absent relatives and friends. Music was provided by a harpist and organist and the proceedings were livestreamed and recorded. The bridal party walked a short distance to the church, led by a piper, and Duncan walked from the opposite direction to the church with the best man.

In addition to the prayers was a speech by the pastor, vows and signings, a reading and hymns, Duncan read a poem by Robert Burns, and a Clan MacMillan friend read a poem written for the occasion by Clan Chief



George MacMillan of MacMillan and Knap, and Christine sung two songs with her chorus group, Capital Harmony Chorus. After leaving the church they were led to the church hall by the piper, where guests were greeted and afternoon tea served. A Morris Dancing side, which Duncan had recently joined, entertained for part of the tea, joined by Duncan for a dance. Duncan's son James made a speech from Sydney, and there were many video best wishes from around the world. The wedding cakes represented the journey of the families from the ancestral roots to the current day, and the aspirations for the future. The wedding was very much a collaborative effort with the help of many family and friends to ensure that the day was a success.

Deaths

PIKE (1939). On June 20, 2020, David Wingeate Pike, aged 89, in Paris, of complications from a lung infection. His family remember him as a historian, musician, lover of Shakespeare and the romantic poets, and a man of enormous energy, will and determination, who never retired and worked to the end. He was buried at the Cimetiere Parisien de Bagneux, Bagneux. He leaves his wife Carol, daughters Cecilie and Stephanie, and three granddaughters.

KEDROS (1926). On March 2, 2021, Tryphon Eustathios Kedros, aged 108, peacefully at home in Vouliagmeni, Greece, aged 108 – the oldest living OC, and possibly the oldest on record?

Born Tryphon Efstathiou Arditzoglou on 10 October 1912 in Constantinople (today's Istanbul), the youngest of seven siblings, the family left Constantinople in 1922, in the wake of the Asia Minor disaster, arriving in London in 1924 after a short stay in Marseilles. Arditzoglou is Turkish for 'son of juniper' and, as Greeks, the brothers chose to change the family name to *Kedros* - Greek for juniper.

He represented Highgate at football, rugby, swimming, boxing, and fives; sustaining injuries in each, he eventually settled for the more social pastimes of golf and tennis; the latter he played well into his 90s.

He moved to Hamburg in the 1930s to work with his older brother Cleon in imports, where he learned German. Before the outbreak of WWII he returned to the UK to join the British Army, ending - with his language skills - as Lord Jellicoe's intelligence officer and entering Athens in 1944 with him as liberators.

After the war years he opened T E Kedros Ltd, trading scarce commodities such as tinned fruit and tobacco, having built relationships with importers and exporters, and soon after developed Southern Shipping & Finance as a shipping company where he was joined by his nephew George Hayalides. He worked in the City of London and lived in the Surrey green belt where he raised his three children, Anthony, Cleo and Zoe. In 1953 he was proposed as a Baltic Exchange member. Of this he said, "Membership is prestigious – and an excellent step for a company's reputation." During the ensuing years the company gain a reputation in London, where it was often referred to by its telegraphic name SORDEK (Kedros backwards!). It had a careful and well-planned road of acquiring vessels ahead of market demands. In the 1960s and 1970s it managed tankers and bulkers, chartering to oil majors and large commodity houses. Together with his nephew, and an army colleague, Mimis Issaias, Tryphon increased the SORDEK fleet to 20 vessels with a reputation for handling cargoes around the clock.

He was made Honorary Member of Baltic Exchange in 2018 after 65 years of service. His nephew Alexandros now runs the

family business. A keen member of the Baltic Exchange Golfing Society, Tryphon hosted its members on several occasions to play at the Corfu Golf Club, of which he was president, with celebrations at the Kedros house in his beloved Benitses on the island. His great friend and equerry to the Queen, Sir Carron Greig (Baltic Chairman 1983-85), included Tryphon among members of the Greek shipping community to be introduced to the Queen during her visit to the old Baltic Exchange building in 1981. She asked him: "How is it that you Greeks are so prominent in shipping?" He answered: "Ma'am, it's simple... even prehistorically, the Greeks were sailors and traders, and the ancient Greeks were known for their ships and merchandise." In the 80s and 90s he became involved in various Hellenic charities in London. He was elected Honorary Chairman of the London Hellenic Society, famous for its lavish annual gala ball where the entire London shipping community enjoyed good food, Greek music and dance until early hours. He was active in the Anglo-Hellenic League which brought together Hellenes and British philhellenes. He played a leading role in setting up the Hellenic Foundation, a grant-making charity promoting the study of Greek culture, and in London's Hellenic Centre, a unique mix of community and cultural centre in the heart of the metropolis. Tryphon immersed himself in culture; he was an avid reader and enjoyed listening to the many learned people who lectured at the societies with which he was involved. He had boundless energy and celebrated his 100th birthday in style at The Mandarin Oriental Knightsbridge, dancing the feet off his chosen partners, all many years younger than him! A Greek, but also a proud Londoner, he was pleased with his Freedom Pass, using London Transport whenever he could, every day catching a bus or using the Underground to go to the office. When he was over 100 his office colleagues tried and failed to persuade him to take a taxi; those that didn't know him would gasp "What?! Is he still going to the office?! At a hundred?!" (by Denis Petropoulos, Chairman, *The Baltic Exchange*)

WALKER (CH 1936). On October 10, 2021, Graeme Murray Walker O.B.E., aged 97. He was a pupil at Highgate between 1936-41, making him part of the cohort of pupils evacuated to Westward Ho! during World War II. After Highgate, Murray fought in World War II as a tank commander, a role which saw him take part in the Battle of the Reichswald in 1945. Despite his family connection to motor sport – his father Graham, a fellow OC (1910), was a world-class motorcycle racer – Murray spent many years working in advertising ('A Mars bar a day helps you work, rest and play!' one of his company's creations), with his commentary work initially as a hobby. He became a full-time commentator in 1978. His combination of skill, charm and enthusiasm – as well as his much-loved malapropisms – made him the sport's most recognisable voice. Walker began broadcasting on motorsport in 1949 with his father. His first break came as a result of a mix-up at the Shelsley Walsh hill climb in the Midlands, when the organisers had no one to work the public address system. "My father suggested they try me," Walker recalled. He would go on to work with his father as a part-time commentator, forming the only father-son commentary team the BBC had ever had until Walker Sr's death in 1962.

As Damon Hill approached the chequered flag at the Japanese grand prix in 1996, about to be crowned Formula One world

champion, Murray Walker was lost for words for possibly the only time in his five decades as a commentator, and welled up at the memory of 15-year-old Damon losing his father, Graham Hill, who had twice won the F1 world championship before being killed in an aircraft crash in 1975. He declared: "Damon Hill exits the chicane and wins the Japanese grand prix. And I've got to stop because I've got a lump in my throat."

Walker's excitable tones came to epitomise the drama of Formula One racing on British television, and became the voice of the sport, becoming to motor racing what Peter O'Sullivan was to horse racing, Eddie Waring to rugby league and Brian Johnston to cricket, a commentator whose fortissimo delivery and unquenchable enthusiasm could grip even those to whom the sport was unintelligible. Clive James once described Walker as commentating "as if his trousers are on fire." At the start of a Formula One race, Walker's voice would rev up with the same degree of alacrity as the roaring engines on the grid, earning him the nickname "Turbomouth." He would stand up for the whole race, "bouncing around on the balls of my feet," which he said enabled him to speak louder and with more urgency. His *raison d'être*, he said, was to "communicate as much as I possibly could in the minimum amount of time . . . excitedly."

Owing to this speed of delivery, Walker became famous for on-air gaffes, malapropisms and tautologous utterings. Among the most endearing of his "Murrayisms" were: "Nigel Mansell is slowing down, taking it easy, oh and it's a new lap record;" "Do my eyes deceive me or is Senna's Lotus sounding rough?" and "There's nothing wrong with the car except it's on fire." Walker made his mistakes seem germane to the unpredictability of Formula One. "I don't make mistakes," he once said, "I make prophecies that immediately turn out to be wrong." But his deep love of the sport endeared him to the British public, and in 2009 he was voted the "greatest sports commentator of all time" in a poll of British sports fans. By the time he retired in 2001, 'Murray', as he was fondly known, was loved by millions worldwide. At the School's 450th Anniversary in 2015, Murray made his first visit to Highgate in many years, delighting the audience with stories of life at school in the years leading up to World War II and tales from his career. He is survived by his wife Elizabeth and is remembered fondly by all who knew him.

SIMONS (1937). On December 30, 2019, Philip Sidney Simons, aged 96. He was an Electronics Engineer.

ARNSTEIN (1938). On November 2, 2020, Emeritus Professor Henry Rudolph Victor Arnstein BSc, PhD, DSc., after a short illness. He was born in Vienna in 1924 and fled from the Nazis in 1938. He was at Highgate during the Westward Ho! era, obtained a degree in organic chemistry in 1944 from Imperial College, London and worked on the development and production of penicillin in the later stages of the Second World War. He lived in the USA for a couple of years as a post-doctoral fellow in Rochester, New York, and then returned to work at the National Institute for Medical Research in Mill Hill. In 1966 he became Professor of Biochemistry and Head of Department at King's College, London, and was Secretary General of the Federation of European Biochemical Societies (FEBS), of which he was a driving force for some 15 years. He retired to look after his wife, Ruth, who suffered with Alzheimer's for many years until her death in 2015. His sons are OCs – Michael (EG 1968) and Christopher (EG 1972) – he had five grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Michael proudly asserts that all three were taught by the late great Theodore Mallinson!



HART (GH 1938). On February 28, 2019, Charles Barrington Hart, aged 93, in Sheffield. During the war years, he was evacuated to Westward Ho! He qualified at the Royal Veterinary College, where he was an assistant lecturer 1946-52. He worked with veterinary practitioners Cooper McDougall & Robertson Ltd., and in 1973 became Cruelty to Animals Inspector for the Home Office.

PALMER (NG 1939). On Nov. 6, 2020, Geoffrey Dyson Palmer, age 93, one of the best-known actors of his generation who had a career as a character actor in a variety of film and TV roles, perhaps most famous for TV sitcoms including *Butterflies*, *The Fall and Rise of Reginald Perrin* and *As Time Goes By*. He did his National Service in the Royal Marines, where he became an instructor. He qualified as an accountant, but he always had a hankering for the stage and his girlfriend persuaded him to sign up with a local dramatic society. He got a job as assistant stage manager at the Grand Theatre, Croydon, before touring in rep. In 1958 he appeared in the ITV sitcom *The Army Game*, which launched the careers of several actors and led to the first *Carry On* film. TV character parts followed in episodes of *The Avengers*, *The Saint*, *Gideon's Way* and *The Baron*, and he played a property agent in Ken Loach's hard-hitting BBC play, *Cathy Come Home*.

His world-weary demeanour made him instantly recognisable although he made clear that "I'm not grumpy; I just look this way." Despite TV and film work, he continued to perform in the theatre, receiving critical acclaim for his role in John Osborne's play *West of Suez*, appearing alongside Ralph Richardson. He worked with Paul Scofield and Laurence Olivier, and was directed by John Gielgud in Noel Coward's *Private Lives*. In 1970 he played Masters in *Doctor Who and the Silurians*, with two further appearances in 1972 in *Mutants* and in 2007 in *Voyage of the Damned*.

He achieved wider familiarity as Jimmy Anderson, the clueless brother-in-law of Leonard Rossiter in the sitcom *The Fall and Rise of Reginald Perrin*, which first appeared on the BBC in 1976. Then came the part of the reserved and conservative dentist Ben in Carla Lane's comedy *Butterflies*. He remained in demand as a character actor, including film appearances in *A Fish Called Wanda*, *The Madness of King George* and *Clockwise*. He played Dr Price in the *Fawlty Towers* TV episode *The Kipper and the Corpse*, appeared in *The Professionals*, *The Goodies* and *Whoops Apocalypse*, and played Field Marshal Haig in *Blackadder Goes Forth*, casually sweeping model soldiers off a plan of the battlefield with a dustpan and brush.

In 1992, alongside his great friend Judi Dench, he began a role in the sitcom *As Time Goes By*, which followed the progress of former lovers who rekindled their relationship after a 38-year gap. It became one of the BBC's most popular comedies. He also appeared with Dench in the Bond film *Tomorrow Never Dies* and as Sir Henry Ponsonby in *Mrs Brown*, the story of the relationship between Queen Victoria and her servant John Brown.

With a voice as distinctive as his appearance, Palmer was also in demand as a narrator, and he also voiced some notable adverts, memorably the Audi cars "Vorsprung durch Technik" adverts. He was also a keen fly fisherman, and in a DVD series, *The Compleat Angler*, he related Izaak Walton's classic 17th-Century book. In 2000 the British Film Institute named *Fawlty Towers*, *Cathy Come Home* and *Doctor Who* the greatest British TV programmes ever screened; Palmer was the only actor to have appeared in all three. He married Sally Green in 1963; they had two children. (Adapted from the BBC website obituary).

ANDERSON (EG 1942). On 8th June 2020, Ian Alexander James Anderson, aged 91. On passing his School Certificate with 5 credits he left to join Harrods and although National Service intervened, he became a buyer at Dickens and Jones

at the age of 22. In 1959, back at Harrods, the group fell prey to a takeover by the House of Fraser and Ian decided to look for new opportunities, accepting an offer to join the John Lewis Partnership. He went to Waitrose as Central Buyer Non-Food. From there he became Assistant Director of Buying in 1961 and three years later Director of Buying. In 1968 he was appointed to the Board of the John Lewis Partnership as the first Director of Management Services, a new position created to bring together and develop the information technology throughout the whole Partnership. In 1977 Ian was appointed Director of Trading John Lewis Department Stores, Manufacturing, Wholesale & Distribution, the position he held until his official retirement in April 1991. During his Partnership career he held positions on the Central Board, the Principle Executive Committee and the Central Council. Ian's contribution to manufacturing and commerce was recognised with the award of Fellowship of the Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce. In retirement he indulged his passion for classic cars, owning, driving and showing at various times an Austin 12/4 Heavy, a 3 Litre Bentley Open Tourer and an Alvis Firefly and, when he thought he should have something a little more sedate and weatherproof, a Bentley Mk 6. He was a member of the Bentley Drivers Club and the Rolls Royce Enthusiasts Club. Perhaps, though, his greatest pleasure was his, and his wife Yvonne's, annual three month-long visits to their daughter and grandchildren in Australia, where they threw themselves into Aussie life and over the 27 years they visited were actively involved with school runs and their grandchildren's education, holidays to the seaside, motoring events and catching up with their many friends. He is survived by his wife who he married in 1952, his daughter, two sons, three grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

DAVIS (1943). On December 25, 2019, Professor Martyn Paul Davis, aged 90, suddenly and peacefully. He graduated from the London School of Economics, his BSc specialising in industry and trade. In 1960 he joined the College for the Distributive Trades, then part of the London Institute, and commenced a prominent career in Marketing Education, becoming Head of Marketing Services and in due course Head of Department of Marketing and Advertising Studies. He was a member of the Advertising Association, the Institute of Practitioners in Advertising and the Institute of Public Relations, and gained the Honour Diploma of the Communication Advertising and Marketing Education Foundation, of which he later became Governor.

In 1961, thanks to a bursary from the US State Department, Martyn attended the international Marketing Institute Programme at Harvard Graduate School of Business Administration, an experience which, he claimed, changed his life. On his return to UK he became a Founder and Executive Director of the Cambridge International Marketing programme, a UK based version of the Harvard course. He wrote several business textbooks including *A Career in Advertising* (1963), *A Handbook for Media Representatives* (1967), *The Effective Use of Advertising Media* (1981), which ran to 6 editions, and *Successful Advertising - Key Alternative Approaches* (1997).

In 1985 he became a Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Marketors. He developed their Awards for Marketing Excellence, chaired the Awards Committee for several years and innovated many of its regular Marketing Awards. For his service on Awards and on the Company's Court, he was accorded the rare honour of Court Assistant Emeritus and subsequently joined the Heritage and Fellowship Committees. It was his appreciation of his time spent at Harvard and his wish to share this opportunity that led him to set up a Trust in order to fund the Harvard Bursary for WCoM liverymen.

Martyn loved ballet, opera and concerts, as well as spaghetti Westerns, *Carry On* and Kung Fu films, and in his younger days was a keen ballroom dancer and enjoyed martial arts, skiing and sailing. He loved good food and dining out, and was a keen visitor to art galleries, museums and country houses. He appreciated antiques, but also enjoyed commissioning new objets d'art for his ever-growing collection. He also had an extraordinary collection of ornamental frogs. At a lunch to celebrate his 90th birthday in September 2019, he was proud to launch the publication of his first work of fiction – *The Domsday Dossier*, a science fiction novel, the proceeds of which will go to Age UK.

KELLY (1943). On June 20, 2020, Michael John Anderson Kelly, aged 89, in Ottawa, Canada. Born in Sutton Coldfield, England to John and Edith Kelly, he went from Highgate to Oxford University and the Middlesex Hospital Medical School. He emigrated to Canada in 1956, first as an intern in St. John's NL and then completing residencies in Chattanooga, Tennessee and at the Royal Victoria Hospital in Montreal. He joined the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps in 1960 as a consultant obstetrician and gynecologist with postings in Iserlohn, Germany and Whitehorse, where he met Barbara. Following a period of teaching and research at the University of Alberta, they settled in Sault Ste. Marie, where Michael practiced medicine for more than 50 years. He was a Fellow of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. Michael was devoted to his family and maintained a deep connection to his roots in England. He had a love of classical music, a profound interest in world events and history and enjoyed a good debate. He will be deeply missed by his family and his profession. His wife Barbara Anne Kelly predeceased him; they had three children and four grandchildren.

WELBANK (1944). On September 15, 2020, John Michael Welbank, aged 90. As an Alderman of the City of London, he was an outstanding Chairman of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee and served for 10 years on the Committee. Michael was passionate about the Open Spaces and, as a local to the Heath, his enthusiasm for it was heartfelt. He was very involved at the initial stages of the Hampstead Heath Ponds Project and helped enormously in raising the importance of the Project with Members and the local community. He studied at UCL and was a successful architect and town planner, his work taking him to places as diverse as Chad and Lebanon. He was past President of the Royal Town Planning Institute, a visiting professor at Oxford Brookes University, and master of the Worshipful Company of Chartered Architects.

After his wife's death in 2000, he stood for, and was elected, a common councillor of the City of London, becoming Chair of the City of London's Planning Committee. Living in Hampstead, he bridged a sensitive local divide, being an active member of the Heath and Hampstead Society, a role from which he stepped back when he became Chair of the City of London Corporation's Hampstead Heath Management Committee in 2009. In this role, he found himself in charge of the controversial Heath Ponds Project, in which the 17th century dams holding the Heath's famous ponds had to be rebuilt as a precaution against flooding; a project which faced substantial local opposition. However, he was a great protagonist for, and passionate about, Hampstead Heath, for which he had a lifelong love; like other Old Cholmeleians, he gained his familiarity of it through cross-country running. "Hampstead Heath," he observed, "can provide a contentment to the human spirit; it reminds Londoners of their continuing relationship to the land and is a strong enough feature to survive the impact of future development." He was made an MBE in 1994.

IMRAY (1945). On December 20, 2020, Sir Colin Henry Imray KBE, CMG, KStJ, aged 87. His father, in the Colonial Service in Sierra Leone, died on the way home when Colin was 2. He won a scholarship to Highgate, where he was in the Football XI and the Fives VI, and was Captain of Tennis. He spent his national service as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Seaforth Highlanders and aide-de-camp to the Governor of Sierra Leone, and then won a scholarship to Balliol College, Oxford, studying Politics, Philosophy and Economics and specialising in the political structure of the Commonwealth; there he met his wife Shirley Matthews, whose own enterprises were to include a hospice in Nairobi for poor cancer sufferers, and turning a room of their residence in Islamabad into a ward for cholera patients rejected by local hospitals.

Entering the Commonwealth Relations Office, he became private secretary to the high commissioner of Australia, Lord Carrington, in Canberra from 1958-61. Though a brilliant diplomat, "he warned me," Imray recalled, "that he would occasionally lose his temper with me. He had to be nice to people all the time and just occasionally he needed to work off his frustration. Part of my job was to absorb it." In 1963 he was posted to Nairobi to help set up the new High Commission in preparation for Kenyan independence in December, in a tense atmosphere not without personal risk, and his posting to the Montreal Trade Commission in 1970 was little less fraught when his boss, James Cross, was kidnapped by the Quebec Liberation Front, and learned that the kidnappers had been watching his house and family. His performance in maintaining staff morale during the crisis impressed the government, who posted him to an equally challenging role in Pakistan in 1973, where he received an unfriendly reception in Islamabad, though he developed a working relationship with Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, before his arrest and execution in 1977. From 1977-9 he was a commercial counsellor in Israel. "The Jewish settlers had made the desert bloom with their hard work and high technology, but their bureaucracy was Levantine and after the Camp David return of Sinai to Egypt, the Israeli character became coarsened by increasingly colonialist and settler attitudes to the West Bank." He was then appointed deputy high commissioner for India in 1980, based in Mumbai in a palatial home which once belonged to Mohammed Ali Jinnah, the founder of Pakistan. In his final postings as High Commissioner in Tanzania (1986-9) and then Bangladesh (1999-93), his intervention forestalled unrest by persuading President Hussain Mohammad Ershad to step down; Imray was knighted for his work in Bangladesh. He became increasingly involved with aid programmes, persuading their governments to adopt the IMF and World Bank's economic requirements to access aid funding, while negotiating with international lenders to moderate their demands. He persuaded the British government to moderate the management of its £100 million aid budget for Bangladesh to Dacca, swinging the emphasis of the programme "away from large projects, which provided easy rake-offs for politicians, to focus more on alleviating poverty." He retired in 1993 to serve as Secretary-General at the Order of St. John and as chairman of the Royal Overseas League (2000-05). A deep-thinking man who cared about Britain's role and standing in the world, he took a dim view of modern-day British diplomacy and foreign policy, especially the "under-valuing" of the British Council and the BBC World Service. "Britain may have continued too long after the war with an unrealistic understanding of its changed status in the world, but at least it accepted a service of obligation and responsibility, which we now seem to shirk." He is survived by his wife Shirley and four children.

(Adapted from obituary in *The Times*, January 26, 2021. An autobiographical account of his life can be found on <https://www.chu.cam.ac.uk/media/uploads/files/Imray.pdf>)

NEWTON (1945). On August 25, 2020, Air Vice Marshal Barry Hamilton Newton, aged 88. He was awarded a cadetship to the RAF College Cranwell, where he trained as a pilot and was commissioned in July 1953. He flew the Canberra jet bomber, and for 18 months served on No 109 Squadron, based in Lincolnshire, before transferring to No 76 Squadron, equipped with the more advanced version of the bomber, which was preparing to deploy to Australia. After completing a course at the Central Flying School, Newton returned to RAF Cranwell in 1959 to serve as a flying instructor. He regularly drove to the sports field in his immaculate red Aston Martin DB2, the envy of his fellow officers and the cadets, dressed in his Crombie overcoat and trilby hat, to support the College rugby teams.

His appointments included commanding a squadron at No 6 Flying Training School equipped with the Jet Provost, and a period on the staff at HQ Flying Training Command. After attending the RAF Staff College, he was appointed personal staff officer to the Commander Second Allied Tactical Air Force and Commander-in-Chief RAF Germany, Air Marshal Sir Denis Spotswood, renowned as a hard task master. Newton was on No 76 Squadron when the unit deployed to RAAF Base Edinburgh near Adelaide, Australia in 1956 to participate in Operation Buffalo, the testing of the first four British low-yield atomic weapons.

He flew one of five Canberras posted at Maralinga airfield, 500 miles north-west of Adelaide, to gather data from the tests carried out in the Woomera range. Flying at high level, the aircraft were tasked with meteorological reconnaissance, cloud sampling and cloud tracking after the explosion: the pilots used the call-sign "sniffer". At the first test, on September 27 1956, Newton and his crew monitored the blast and took air samples from the radioactive cloud. Three more tests were carried out; Newton flew in support, the aircraft fitted with Geiger counters to monitor radiation levels in the cockpit.

The squadron later deployed to Christmas Island for Operation Grapple, a series of tests of Britain's first hydrogen bomb. The first drop took place on May 14 1957; Newton and his colleagues, flying their Canberras, monitored the tests. At the end of 1957 he left 76 Squadron and was awarded a Queen's Commendation for Valuable Service in the Air for his part in the nuclear testing programme.

His relaxed style, ability, excellent staff work and social skills served him well. Whenever possible, he drove to his home to take afternoon tea with his family before returning to his desk. He returned to flying in June 1969 when he commanded the flying wing at RAF Cottesmore, home to three Canberra squadrons. After attending the Air Warfare Course, he began a series of appointments in the MoD policy branch and in the Cabinet Office, which included support of the Joint Intelligence Committee. In 1975 he was appointed OBE.

Promoted to air commodore in 1982, he moved to HQ RAF Support Command, where he was responsible for all RAF flying training. In 1983 he was appointed an ADC to the Queen and for two years was Senior Director at the Royal College of Defence Studies. In 1986 he became commandant of the Joint Services Defence College at Greenwich. Shortly before

retiring he was appointed CB. In summer 1989, on completion of his regular service, he became a Gentleman Usher to the Queen, a position he held until 2002 when he became an Extra Gentleman Usher. For his services he was appointed CVO. In retirement, Newton retained close links with the services. He was Vice Chairman of the council of the TA & VR Association for 10 years, and in 1997 was appointed Honorary Air Commodore of No 606 (Chiltern) Auxiliary Squadron, part of the Joint Helicopter Force based at Benson near Oxford. In 2000 he became Honorary Inspector of the Royal Auxiliary Air Force and later was made President of the UK Reserve Forces Association. His memory for faces was a huge asset and put people at ease. He remained in contact with those who had worked for him, and recognised their own achievements with personal letters.

Keen on early aviation history, he was instrumental in the refurbishment and re-siting of the Grade II listed memorial "The Airmen's Cross" near Stonehenge, erected in memory of pioneer airmen Captain Eustace Lorraine and Staff Sergeant Richard Wilson, killed in a flying accident in 1912. In 2002, Newton was made an Honorary Freeman of the Company of Lightmongers. His interests included military history, walking and philately. He was described by a colleague as "a gentleman of the old school." In September 1959 he married Lavinia, daughter of Colonel J J Aitken CMG, DSO, OBE. She died in 2016 and their son and daughter survive him. Full obituaries appeared in the Daily Telegraph on 25th September, 2020, and The Times on 11th December, 2020.

PATTENDEN (GH 1946). On April 9, 2020, John Anthony ("Tony") Pattenden, aged 86 from complications caused by COVID-19. He spoke fondly of his school days and was an enthusiastic Old Cholmeleian, playing for the football team for a number of years. His wife, Molly, two sons and two stepdaughters would like to thank the staff of Southend University Hospital for their kindness.

TURBERVILLE (NG 1946). During 2020, Roger Turberville, aged about 86.

JOHNSON (NG 1947). On January 24, 2021, Peter Johnson, aged 86, from pneumonia and organ failure. He was Finance Director of John Laing plc, and was Worshipful Master of Cholmeley Lodge 2005-6.

SIMPSON (GH 1947). On December 1, 2020, John Garrett Simpson, aged 86.

BACON (SH 1950). In early 2020, Anthony Gordon Bacon, aged 81. He was a banker with Barclays Bank.

BAILEY (SG 1950). On June 17, 2020, Simon Stanhope Carter (a.k.a. "Bill") Bailey, aged 82, suddenly from cardiac arrest, at Leighton Hospital, Crewe, Cheshire. Born in 1937 in Dunoon, Scotland he came to Highgate via Canada where his RAF father had been stationed training pilots in the Canadian Airforce during the Second World War. He loved his time at the school, forming lifetime friendships, and studied agriculture at Wye College, University of London, followed by a postgraduate course in Education. He took up a lecturing post and eventually rose to become Senior lecturer/Head of Science Education at Manchester Metropolitan University, Crewe. He had a passion for education and a desire to open up lifelong learning to everyone through investigation and experience of the world. He contributed to several highly regarded books and many articles. In 1994, in recognition of his creative approaches towards learning, he was awarded the Athena Publishing Award for Innovation and Learning. He enthused about everything he did, and wanted everyone to have the opportunity to experience as much as they possibly could.



His early family travels fired a love of travel and music. Holidays with Pauline, his wife, and sometimes friends, included travel to many countries including France, Greece, Slovenia and Italy. Prior to visiting a new country, he would research every aspect of the place; its history, culture, resources and particularly its food and wines. He could find the most obscure details about a place and create a detour on their journey to witness them. They had six children: Tamsin – who sadly predeceased him, Adam, Miranda, Gemma, Jocasta and Pia, and was stepfather to Daniel, Jamie and Anthony, the children of Pauline, his third wife who survives him. Simon will be remembered as an immensely gifted person who could speak to anyone, at any level, with subtlety and intelligence. He loved to be surrounded by young people engaging in good conversation. He was never judgemental and never pushed anyone in any particular direction, believing that you should make your own path in life, safe in the knowledge that should you stumble he would be there to pick you up and support you.

(Adapted from obituary by his wife Pauline and family)

HOWLETT (SG 1950). On October 9, 2020, Christopher John Howlett, aged 82, after a long illness (*information from his brother Martin Howlett (SG1955)*).

HUGHES (GH & WH 1951). On May 5, 2020, David Anthony Hughes, at Hamilton General Hospital, Ontario, Canada, aged 79. His brother Nigel (TL 1964) writes:

David moved from Grindal House to Waiting House, where he was a House Monitor. Blessed with a fine tenor voice, he took full advantage of the opportunities opened up by Edward 'Cherry' Chapman, participating in the BBC 'Let the people sing' competition and winning the school broken voice solo competition. Always persuasive, he talked Mrs Chapman into giving him singing lessons rather than the piano tuition our parents thought they were paying for.

He qualified as a Chartered Accountant with Temple Gothard in London, before moving to Whinney Murray and thence to Deloitte in Toronto. After stints with Ernst & Ernst and Toronto Dominion Bank, he became a sole practitioner, where his ability to turn clients into friends and friends into clients remained with him.

In Toronto he became the OC correspondent for a number of years and was pleased to greet new arrivals in the city, as well as old friends. He continued to sing at the highest level – being a member of the Toronto Mendelsohn Choir until 2001. He sang on the Oscar winning soundtrack to Schindler's List; I used to say that it was nice having an Oscar winner for a brother.

He was married twice, both marriages ending in divorce. For the last 17 years of his life he was the loving partner of Marion Thirsk of Waterloo, Ontario. She delivered the books of the nursing association of which she was an officer to the auditor; as a result, he lost a client, she lost an auditor, but they found each other. He leaves three children, five grandchildren and is fondly remembered by Marion's wider family as their "Bonus Dad." His ability to walk into a room anywhere in the world and instantly meet someone he either knew or had a connection with was uncanny, his explosive, infectious laughter was unmistakable, and he will be greatly missed by those whose lives he touched.

PATTEN (HG 1951). In April, 2020, Roy William Patten, aged 80 (*Information from Anthony Weston, 1951*).

PETERS (1951). On July 15, 2020, David Lewis Peters, aged 81.

BLACKER (1952). On September 5th, 2020, Michael Jon Blacker, aged 81, from pancreatic cancer. After Highgate and Imperial College, London, he pursued a career in the insurance industry.

However, he changed direction and ran a very successful picture shop in Tunbridge Wells for nearly 30 years. He will be sorely missed and lovingly remembered by wife Sandra, son Adam, daughter Nicola, four grandchildren, relatives and friends.

SHINEBOURNE (1952). On November 29, 2020, Elliott Anthony Shinebourne, aged 80. Winning a senior foundation scholarship at Highgate, and the entrance scholarship in science and the Brackenbury Scholarship in medicine at St. Bartholomew's Medical School, where he met his future wife Anne Webster, he did house jobs at Barts and then went to the Brompton to study and qualify in chest medicine. He won a scholarship to study paediatric cardiology at the Cardiovascular Research Institute in San Francisco, during which he was persuaded to return to become the first full-time paediatric cardiologist at the Brompton, during which time he co-edited Paediatric Cardiology (1986), still a standard work used all over the world.

An outspoken person, he defended cardiac surgeons at the Bristol Royal Infirmary, where an alarming number of infant patients had died after surgery; he believed this was due not to negligence but to lack of resources. His own ethical judgment came under attack when he and a colleague expressed the view that some sudden infant deaths were due to mothers had denied their guilt until shown film evidence which Elliott had gathered in collaboration with the police.

As recovery rates improved, he followed patients' progress through adolescence. He developed a foetal cardiology service, believing that antenatal diagnosis could be critical for some infants with heart conditions.

He divorced Anne, with whom he had four children, in 1990 and married Julene, with whom he had one son.

When the government decided to concentrate paediatric cardiac surgery in fewer, larger centres, he successfully campaigned to protect the Brompton team. His contribution to the discipline is acknowledged to have saved thousands of young lives. (*Adapted from obituary in The Times, Jan. 27, 2021*)

CARTLIDGE (1954). During 2021, William Penrose Cartlidge, aged 78.

PERMAN (NG & QG 1954). On July 24, 2020, Michael Perman, from dementia, in Denver, Colorado, USA. After Oxford, he went to Champaign, Illinois in 1963 to pursue graduate studies in U.S. History at the University of Illinois, where he eventually became Professor Emeritus and former Chairman of History. He later moved to Chicago to study under the late Prof. John Hope Franklin at the University of Chicago. His scholarship included a life-time study of 19th Century Southern Political History, authoring several influential monographs and mentoring three generations of students. In 2002, he was appointed the John Adams Distinguished Professor of American History, Utrecht University, Netherlands. His research and teaching interests were broad. Throughout his career these included the American South, the Civil War and Reconstruction, slavery and race relations, citizenship and immigration policy. He considered Chicago his home and spent many hours enjoying and supporting the local performing arts. Motivated by his intimate knowledge of the great injustices of the past, he was a tireless advocate for minority voting rights in northeastern Illinois and throughout the U.S. A scholarship fund will be created in his name at the University of Illinois at Chicago to support graduate students in the Department of History. He is survived by his children, Sarah and Benjamin, and three grandchildren.

COPELAND (GH 1955). On October 9, 2020, Roger Andrew Copeland, aged 77.

HODGE (WH & FG 1955). In November 2020, Peter Richard Hodge, aged 77. After school he worked for British Rail, becoming their London Planning Officer. In 2010 he published *The Steam and the Gaslight: Travelling by Train in Late Victorian London, 1871-1900*. He lived in Winchmore Hill, and his interest in local history led to his publishing *The Cresswells of Winchmore Hill: A gifted Victorian family* in 1999. He was an enthusiastic walker, and had many friends, among them the Rev. Martin A. Goord (TL 1955), who sent a brief memoir.

BUCHANAN (SH 1957). On October 18, 2020, Alistair Gray (Rob) Buchanan (SH 1957), aged 75, in Hobart Tasmania.

KEELE (CH, 1959). Robert Combes (CH 1958) sends a personal appreciation of John Keele, whose death, on 13 July, 2019, was reported in the 2020 Cholmeleian: "Johnny was the youngest of three Keele brothers, whose times at Highgate overlapped with mine, and also with that of my brother, Trevor (1953), whose dates, in turn, overlapped with Johnny's eldest brother, Gerard, who wrote the very moving tribute, which prompted this response. The third Keele brother, Richard (1958), was a direct contemporary of his, who, after leaving Highgate, became a highly respected geologist; his untimely death was reported in an obituary posted on the 2005 Tasmanian Geological Society website. Throughout my time at Highgate, in both Field House and then Cordell House, I took a great interest in Johnny, not only because we shared the same sense of humour, but also because I felt a strong need to keep his spirits up in the face of his eczema and asthma, which, at times, could be severely debilitating. Our friendship was also based on my respect for the fact that Johnny never complained about his ailments, and seldom, if ever, seemed envious of his many friends and colleagues, whose lives were less blighted by such problems. In fact, rather than succumbing to them, and becoming reclusive, I recall many social events at which Johnny was the 'life and soul of the party', putting his thespian talents to good use, especially during the later period of his time at school, after he had become less susceptible to recurrences of his condition. Reflecting on the above encourages in me a firm belief that Johnny's stoicism and bravery must have been strongly influential in helping him to enjoy such success in both his school and adult life."

RENTON (HG 1959). On June 26, 2020, Andrew Renton, aged 74.

DOGGETT (CH 1960). In October, 2020, Richard Paul Doggett aged 72, as a result of an accident on his farm in New South Wales Australia. Richard went to Australia within a few days of leaving school in July 1965. He made his way doing various jobs, including being an actor in TV in soaps, one being *Homicide*, which ran for a number years, in which he played a detective. He eventually started his own successful Marketing and PR company and was recruited by the Aussie Rules football club, Richmond Tigers of Melbourne, as their CEO. He was the first person in Australia to put advertising on football shirts and he led the club to their first Championship title in 1980. When he retired, he bought a farm in Bexhill, near Byron Bay in New South Wales, farming Macadamia nuts. He became President of the Macadamia Nut Trade body and travelled the world with Australian Government officials on trade missions. Richard also did a great deal of charity work, including raising money for an operatic scholarship in Vienna. He had a very close family; he leaves his wife Chrissie, four daughters, two brothers and many close friends (*information from Barry Dennis, TL 1958*).

BULKELEY (QG 1961). On October 31, 2019, the Rev. Dr Stephen Gilbert Timothy Bulkeley, very suddenly, aged 71, in Waikato Hospital, New Zealand. He was a well-known Old

Testament scholar, writer and teacher who influenced many preachers and teachers in Africa, in New Zealand where he had lived since 1993, as well as Asia and the UK. His YouTube talks on Biblical themes can be seen on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6riBebT3hqk&list=ULCzYr2oO-sDo&index=230>. He leaves his wife Barbara, four children and three grandchildren.

HUNT (SH 1961). On January 11, 2019, Ian David Hunt, aged 70, from Sarcoma. While at Highgate, Ian enjoyed a wide portfolio of interests and helped with the dramatic Society, the Cinema club and was part of the concert chorus. He enjoyed the CCF and rose to the position of drum major. He led the CCF band on all its parades and marches and honour duties. Ian was an excellent sportsman and was awarded school and house colours for athletics and soccer. He was proficient at swimming, boxing, cricket and shooting where he earned additional house colours. He gained a bachelor's degree in Textile Technology at Leeds University. Ian worked for the Milk Marketing Board for a few years and then changed interests and worked for Mazda Cars UK, where he stayed for many years, becoming a senior executive. After 25 years, he left Mazda and formed his own company where he enjoyed the freedom of planning his own agenda. During those years, he travelled widely and sometimes went abroad with his daughters, which he thoroughly enjoyed. He was diagnosed with Sarcoma but was able to walk his youngest daughter down the aisle just two weeks before his passing. He leaves two daughters and two grandchildren as well as an older sister, Madelyn (from Richard Woods, SH 1961).

PUDDIFOOT (QG 1962). On March 10, 2019, Martin Puddifoot, aged 68, in hospital on the Isles of Scilly. He met Ann in London; after six weeks they were engaged and were married seven months later in Ann's hometown of East Kilbride, Scotland in 1977. Martin spent his career with Barclays Bank in the City of London for over 30 years, holding a management position before retiring in 2003. He also enjoyed playing sports for Barclays. Following his retirement, and after holidaying in the Scillies for many years, they decided to move there from London in 2004, settling happily into island life. At Highgate, Martin formed deep friendships which would prove to be lifelong. They were happily married for 41 ½ years; he was a loving, kind and generous man who will be sadly missed by his wife Ann and all who knew him.

PREEST (Common Room 1972-86). On May 22, 2019, David Preest (Head of Classics 1972-1991; Housemaster of Northgate 1975-1986), aged 81.

David Preest came to Highgate in 1972 after teaching at Loughborough Grammar School and the Royal Grammar School, Newcastle. He arrived with glowing tributes as a meticulous scholar, inspirational schoolmaster, fine sportsman and dedicated colleague involved in many areas of school life. He led the Highgate Classics Department with distinction for almost 20 years. As housemaster of Northgate he guided his charges with wise advice and by his own example, the twin responsibilities testifying to his ability as an outstanding teacher, efficient administrator and compassionate pastoral leader. He understood the boys on their own level and engaged with them easily whilst retaining his authority. Few teachers today would be asked to undertake such a heavy workload and few would be able to discharge both duties with his calm, unruffled manner and gentle humour.

At that time teaching classics was changing, with new courses and the chance for school expeditions to Greece and Italy. David was quick to embrace the new opportunities (and challenges) of the *Cambridge Latin Course*, the *JACT Ancient History A-level* and the *JACT Classical Civilisation O-level*. His

approach enabled pupils of all abilities to enjoy access to the classical world, in the original language or in English, and to appreciate the profound influence which it still exerts upon our own. Yet he carried his learning lightly, which endeared him even more to his students.

Former pupils remember his ability to inspire, his love of literature and the arts, his modesty, his quiet humour (often delivered as a wry aside) and his ability to recognise the good in everyone. Former colleagues remember his scholarship, his enthusiasm for new ideas and approaches, and recall with gratitude the notes and pamphlets he produced on all aspects of the subject. His A level Greek and Roman History notes were models of clarity and concision. All remember his kindness and compassion. It was a privilege to work under him.

Educated at Monmouth School and Merton College, Oxford (winning scholarships to both), David represented both at cricket and rugby. He later coached school teams with similar enthusiasm and success. He was a lifelong supporter of Manchester United, but cricket was his special passion: a member of Middlesex (and a follower of his native Gloucestershire), he was a keen club cricketer and, shortly after his retirement, returned to Highgate to play for the staff against the Under 14s, scoring an elegant 50 with some dazzling strokes and then retiring immediately to give someone else a turn with the bat.

Retirement allowed him to keep up with his many friends and to pursue a wide range of interests: piano; books, poetry (he wrote an online commentary on the poems of Emily Dickinson) and art history; concerts, opera and theatre; gardening, walking, cycling and travel. He continued his interest in education: first, as Deputy Director of the Education Department of St Albans Cathedral, a post he held for 10 years; later, as translator of seven English mediaeval chronicles previously unavailable to historians except in obscure nineteenth-century Latin editions. His collaborator, Professor James Clark of Exeter University, commented: "David was determined that these important texts should be made available to new readers, not only that they might discover more of the mediaeval past but also that they might hear the voices of those that made this history." David was above all a family man whose quiet faith informed everything he did. He found happiness twice: with his first wife Jane and their three children; and later with Verity and her three children. Both gave him the love and encouragement which supported him in his professional life. He delighted in the achievements of his children and step-children, and was a devoted grandfather to five grandchildren.

Let the last word on David's standing as a classicist and scholar go to Professor James Clark, who paid this tribute to his translation of the early mediaeval chronicles: "This will certainly be his legacy as his authentic and lively versions are now in use wherever in the world mediaeval history is studied and taught." (William Lawrence, *Classics Department 1985-2001*)

FLAVELL (QG 1974). On September 1, 2020, Paul Justin Flavell, aged 58. Known to his friends at Highgate as "Tufty," he studied A levels at Woodhouse School and Geography at Leeds University. While there he first visited South America, where he returned several times, fuelling his love of Latin music and dance. On completing his studies, Paul joined London Borough of Enfield Housing department and pursued a successful career in Housing, specialising in tenant support and retraining programmes. Following an illness in 2002, Paul lived with myotonic dystrophy which restricted his mobility but not his love of life with his wide international circle of friends. Having benefitted from Tia Chi and Qi Gong, he became a qualified instructor, enabling him to help others manage their conditions. He also became a proficient cornettist in a local brass band in Bounds Green, London, and was active for many charitable causes in the area. An horrendous fall in 2019 saw

him hospitalised for nearly a year. He was making great steps to recovery before suffering a series of chest infections, leading to his passing. Throughout his life, Paul strove to support and uplift those around him, exemplifying a strong determination and caring character. (*Obituary from Dave Glasman, EG 1974*)

CHILDS (Common Room, 1975-96). Peter J. Childs. He joined Highgate as a teacher of Economics in 1975, and was almost immediately appointed Head of Careers. He succeeded Martin Wright as Head of Economics in 1983 and presided over tremendous growth in the popularity in the subject until his retirement in August 1996. One of Peter's real coups was to persuade the then economic adviser to Margaret Thatcher, monetarist Lord Griffiths, to give sixth formers the benefit of his insights into the economy. Peter was also a reliable and knowledgeable House Tutor of Kingsgate. His wife Gill was Deputy Head of Field House.

DHARSI (Junior School Staff, 1985-1997). on July 23, 2020, Shiraz Dharsi, aged 73. *William Lawrence (Classics Dept., 1985-2001)* writes:

It was with great sadness that I learned of Shiraz's passing. Shiraz and I shared staff accommodation for 12 years, where he was a good friend and wise counsellor; this is a personal tribute to his friendship, his service to the School and his ability as a cricketer and coach.

Shiraz Kassam Dharsi, first-class cricketer and schoolmaster, arrived at Highgate Junior School in 1985 after teaching posts at Rossall School (Lancashire) and Strathallan School (Perthshire). At both he made a significant contribution to the coaching of cricket and squash and gained plaudits for his easy interaction with his charges.

At Highgate he was both a form-master and housemaster; he had an easy-going nature and a ready sense of humour which helped him in his pastoral roles. He took his boys' welfare seriously and was proud of their achievements. He taught History, English and Geography and was responsible for the cricket coaching and administration; the School was very fortunate to have such a gifted cricketer on the staff, who brought a sense of fun and enthusiasm to his coaching whilst instilling the old-fashioned virtues which would stand boys in good stead in their future cricketing careers. He arranged a full programme of fixtures for Junior School teams and was keen that everyone, regardless of ability, should have the opportunity to enjoy the game. So committed was he to passing on his love of the game that he would often be found at Senior School nets offering advice and coaching to senior boys, many of whom had been under his care in earlier years. He also organised holiday courses in the spring and summer, which enabled numerous youngsters to improve their skills and enhance their appreciation of the game.

Born in Mumbai, he did well at school, in the classroom and on the cricket field, and read history at Bombay University. He played for Bombay Schools in 1960-61 and captained the university team (1964-65) which included a young Sunil Gavaskar who was to become one of the greatest openers in the history of the game. Gavaskar, nicknamed 'The Little Master', paid tribute to Shiraz in *The Times of India* (24 July 2020): *This is sad news. He was my captain when the Bombay University team won the Police Invitation Tournament. He was a very good opener... He was a teacher in London and lived barely three or four buildings away from Lord's Cricket Ground.*

As a wicket-keeper/batsman who played first-class cricket in India (Railways; North Zone) and Pakistan (Sindh; Public Works Department; Karachi Blues), Shiraz reached notable heights in his first-class career: Combined Universities v West Indies (1966); Indian Board President's XI v New Zealand (1969); The Cricket Club of India (1966/1967) and stand-by for India's Australian tour in 1967-68. He was a gifted wicket-keeper: the

game against West Indies included some of the finest cricketers in the world (Seymour Nurse, Basil Butcher, Gary Sobers, Clive Lloyd, Charlie Griffith and Lance Gibbs) and Shiraz liked to say that he had had Sobers caught at the wicket off the bowling of Bishen Bedi but the decision had not gone his way. After the day's play was over, Sobers - the greatest all-rounder in the world - came up to him with a twinkle in his eye and said: "Nice keeping today, son."

After retiring from first-class cricket in India and Pakistan, Shiraz joined Blackpool in the Northern Premier League as professional for two seasons in 1975 and 1976 (averaging 57 and 34). Whilst coaching at Rossall School, he was encouraged by the Head of Cricket to pursue a PGCE at Durham which led him to take up a place at the College of St Hild and St Bede. There he formed an immediate bond with my father who was Senior Administrative Officer at the time and had served in India with the 2nd Punjab Regiment in WWII, so one can imagine my astonishment (when I arrived at Highgate in 1985) to find Shiraz and my father greeting each other in Urdu as though they were long-lost brothers. It was a moving and amusing sight and a reminder of the gift each had for friendship.

After gaining his PGCE at Durham and representing the university, he took up a post at Strathallan School where, in addition to his duties as schoolmaster, boarding-house tutor and cricket coach, he found time to represent Scotland on five occasions (in 1980) with appearances against The West Indies (24), The Netherlands (48), Derbyshire (0), Worcestershire (37) and The MCC (0). For the match against The West Indies, Shiraz opened the innings against a full Test side which included the fast-bowling partnership of Malcolm Marshall and Colin Croft - a fearsome duo. Sadly, his only appearance at Lord's (v MCC) registered a duck which, he admitted, was one of his greatest disappointments. Nevertheless, his MCC membership, both as player and spectator, gave him great pleasure over the years especially when he secured a flat only a few minutes away from Lord's. He also spent some time as a coach at St George's School, Windsor where he was intrigued to see the Queen walking her Corgis around the playing fields on several occasions. He was amused by the boys' reactions (none at all) whilst he was delighted to be umpiring in the presence of the monarch.

After leaving Highgate, Shiraz continued to teach and coach and spent some winters in Florida where he was based at the Sarasota Cricket Club. An article in the *Sarasota Herald Tribune* (20 February 2012) headlined: *Players introduce children to cricket said Shiraz Dharsi, an advanced coach from the United Kingdom who used to play for Scotland, has been coaching children with enthusiasm at the Sarasota Club.*

In retirement (as at Highgate) Shiraz was good company, a generous host and a man of quiet faith. He had family in Mumbai, the Middle East, Africa and North America, so he enjoyed travelling in school holidays and catching up with family news. At his London flat, it was fun to recall shared memories, either from school, staff tours or the international game, and to explore scrapbooks full of articles on his career. He was always cheerful and ready to greet you with warmth and humour.

Shiraz passed away the day before the Third Test against The West Indies at Old Trafford and 40 years to the day that he had scored 102* for The MCC against Ponteland Cricket Club (Newcastle) in their centenary celebrations. Let the last word remain with Sunil Gavaskar: "He was a very soft-spoken lovely guy. May the Almighty rest his soul in peace."

Notes

MICHAEL H. V. JONES (TL 1946) writes to update OCs on his activities since his last note, in 2003. He retired as Senior Associate at Bregman + Hamann (B+H) Architects that year, following which he and his wife Karen moved from Toronto to Northern New Brunswick, where they bought land adjacent to their daughter Alexandra's property, effectively creating a four-acre family estate. They designed their house and the formal landscaping around it, leaving the rest of what was mostly open field to re-wild.

A long-time friend and O.C., Paul Manoussou (NG 1946), on seeing photographs of the completed building, dubbed it "Palazzo Jones" - a slight exaggeration. The set-up enables them to share a cat with Alexandra. He commutes regularly between the two houses, and has two names. His official name is "Champ", but we call him "Puskets" after the Real Madrid soccer player. He and Karen celebrated their diamond wedding a couple of years ago and received congratulatory letters from the Queen and from Governor-General Julie Payette (a former space station astronaut). Since moving here, he has been doing consulting work with B+H Architects International in Shanghai on a variety of projects including the Xiamen National College of Accountants, and with Atkins (U.K. Ltd.) in Shenzhen and Beijing on the master plan and new terminal building for Xian airport. In 2017, Alexandra was a member of the Canadian cross-country biathlon masters' team in an international competition in Finland, and won a bronze medal. Last summer, her son Jérémy travelled to Greece, Italy, U.K., and Ireland, before heading off to tour Japan. He is now back here in "virtual" university, working on his second degree. Last year their granddaughter Julia, a graduate of the Royal Winnipeg Ballet School, had a contract to dance in China with the Harbin National Ballet for a few months, and returned to Canada just before COVID-19 appeared. She is now back with Ballet Victoria in British Columbia. Recently, there was an exhibition of his gouache paintings - mostly land and seascapes of this area

- at a new gallery in nearby Campbellton. Five days after the formal opening, a province-wide COVID-19 lockdown was imposed, but still two of the nineteen pictures were sold. Better luck next time? He adds that "Seventy years ago I edited the *Cholmeleian* with the assistance of fellow Lodger David Hill. Our version was much thinner and somewhat unadventurous compared with your recent editions - we thought we were daring by choosing chrome yellow for the cover!"



PROFESSOR ROBERT ELKELES (WG 1955) has written his autobiography. Published by Troubadour, its title is *My life; Clinician, Researcher, Campaigner*. In it he talks about his time at Highgate. It can be found by Googling "Robert Elkeles Autobiography".

DAVID ACHESON (NG 1959), author and mathematician, has published a new book, bringing his total to five. *The Wonder Book of Geometry* takes the reader on an illustrated tour through the history of geometry, from ancient Greece to the present day. Alex Bellos, author of *Alex's Adventures in Numberland*, comments: "Give this book to a curious teenager and they will fall in love with geometry."

HOWARD SHELLEY (QG 1962) was featured in an article in *The Gramophone* for January 2021 to mark his 70th birthday, in which we learn that Highgate was “a kind of minor public school” and that he was taught to drive by fellow musical achiever John Rutter (SG 1958). Most of the article focussed on his early music career. It notes that, since 1973, he has recorded some 180 albums, featuring the works of more than 85 composers, 144 of which are still available, and 20 feature him as a conductor. He has recorded 173 different works for piano and orchestra and have averaged four recordings a year. It adds that he celebrated his birthday by playing the five major Beethoven piano concertos in one day.

JEREMY THOMPSON (GH 1964) has been appointed Captain of the England Shooting Team for 2021. He explains that, curiously, the Captain doesn't actually shoot in the Match, the role being to select the Team and manage it during practice and on the day of the Match. Having said that, he says that his eyesight and shooting are still pretty good and that, if he wasn't Captain, he would stand a good chance of being selected to shoot. He has been shooting since his school days.

CHRISTOPHER HANCOCK (EG 1966) has released a new book on historic East-West relations. Christopher says: “The book sits at the intersection of the Academy and diplomacy - perfect for specialists and those interested in culture or cultural exchange.” He currently works closely with Jonathan Hoffman (QG 1965), Tony Friend (NG 1967) and OC Jeremy Lefroy. You can learn more about their work here: www.oxfordhousereseach.com

TIM HAINES (FG 1970) and Jane, his wife of 20 years, now live in a Passivhaus in a cohousing community in Colchester called Cannock Mill.

PAUL ACKERMAN (NG 1975) writes that he has recently taken over from Tim Acton as OC co-ordinator in Victoria, Australia. He reports that the Victorian OCs gathered for lunch on Sunday 21st February at a local restaurant in Melbourne. It was a particularly enjoyable celebration, not only because it was their first get together since the lifting of COVID lockdown restrictions in Victoria, but also as their opportunity to thank Tim Acton, who had willingly performed the role of co-ordinator for the past fifteen years with great good humour and dedication. He will be missed, although they hope to continue to welcome him at future functions. In recognition of his service Tim was presented with a certificate prepared by OC Richard Jesty. Eleven OCs attended, together with some of their partners who always add greatly to the occasion. Any OCs residing in or visiting Victoria who would like to connect with the school “down under” are welcome to get in touch with Paul.

ROBERT MYERS' (WG 1982) career as a designer and landscape architect includes designing six gold medal-winning gardens at Chelsea Flower Show, and officiating there as judge, assessor and moderator. In 2020, he designed 'The Florence Nightingale Garden' to mark the bicentenary of the birth of Florence Nightingale and celebrate the importance of the nursing profession in the 21st century. He said: “The theme of the garden is ‘nurture through nature’, inspired by the idea that the shortest road to recovery leads through a garden. The garden will celebrate Florence Nightingale’s contribution to modern-day nursing [and] highlight the importance of green spaces for health and recovery.”

DANIEL HOPE (EG 1986) has kept millions entertained during lockdown with his new virtual series Europe@home. ‘Hope at Home’ has received 10million streams. In February, he invited Europe to his Berlin living room for a series of 27 concerts, one for each country of the European Union.

Daniel is the Patron of the Irene and Henry Retford Fund, founded by Ronnie Austin (QG 1959), which ensures that every pupil at Highgate has the opportunity to fulfil their musical potential, regardless of their economic situation.

Highgate has been pre-eminent at **Fives** since the 1930s, and thrives among the new generation of Cholmeleians. **EMILY SCOONES (GH 2009)** was the runner up in the National Ladies adults competition. **JOE MARKS (EG 2009)** won the Universities title. **MARJOLAINE BRISCOE (WG 2017)** & **PHOEBE BRACKEN (KG 2017)** won the National U25s competition and Marjolaine was also named as Universities champion. **MINNA GRIFFITHS (KG 2018)** & **VIVA RUGGI (WG 2019)** were first time finalists for UCL. **INGIMAR TOMASSON (WG 2018)**, **JAKE BLUSTON (MG 2018)** & **ROHIN MITTAL (QG 2018)** competed in the Universities championships.

ADAM JOGEE (FG 2010) was the youngest person to become a councillor when he was elected in 2014, and he is currently Mayor of Haringey.

MAX JAMILLY (WG 2010) and **ED STEELE (HG 2010)** were awarded first place in the ‘Food and Drink’ category in The Royal Society of Chemistry’s Emerging Technologies Competition 2020. They use mathematical modelling and machine learning to expand and differentiate adult stem cells to make cultivated meat products for their company, Hoxton Farms, which earned them the prestigious award. Max said: The COVID-19 pandemic has really thrown into relief lots of issues that we face with food security and meat production, and with this life-changing opportunity for our start up, and the support and confidence it has given us, we now have a real chance to make a difference with our work.” Ellen Norman, Principal Scientist at RSSL, and a competition judge in this category, said: “Hoxton Farms gave a compelling pitch across the area they’re working in and their unusual approach, and their ability to adapt their plan has the potential to make a huge impact in the future.” www.hoxtonfarms.com

LISA BENSON (QG 2014) is Events and Marketing Officer for the Department for International Trade at the British Embassy in Paris.

CHARLIE PETERS (WG 2018) has earned a Blue in the 136th Varsity Football Match between Oxford and Cambridge universities. the highest honour granted to individual sportspeople at Oxbridge. He also plays for the OC team. Other sporting achievements include **HUGO LLOYD-WILLIAMS (NG 2019)** who gained a light blue for Cambridge Rugby, alongside **CHARLIE PETERS (WG 2018)**, **GEORGE PUGH (TL 2018)** and **TOMMY NEVRKLA (GH 2017)** who received football blues at Oxford.

MAGDALENA STENFORS (GH 2020) delivered a memorable performance in the International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics 2020, narrowly missing a bronze medal and receiving an honourable mention. Magdalena is currently at Oxford studying Physics, and is the first Highgate student to have gained a place on the national team - an impressive feat considering the fact that London-based students don't get much practice observing the night sky!

