

# CHOLMELEIAN

*The*

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HIGHGATE





# EDITOR'S Notes

**This year's edition** of *The Cholmeleian* has a theme of remembrance as we look back on the lives of Roy Giles and Alan Palmer, two former senior members of staff who, in their own distinct ways, helped cultivate the academic learning environment which continues to flourish at Highgate.

We also pay tribute to Mark James and Clare Rodgers, whose distinguished service over many years to the Junior and Senior Schools is celebrated under *Valete*. As Covid restrictions have eased, OC events and sport have once again thrived, much of which can be read about here. Sporting and co-curricular achievements of the past are also remembered in Julia Hudson's two features from the archives entitled *Highgate's Olympians* and *A History of School Colours*. Finally, our sincere thanks go to Michael Hammerson for his compilation of the *Notes* section: an extensive bank of news stories spanning several generations of OCs and plucked from across the globe!

## Gareth Creagh

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## The Cholmeleian

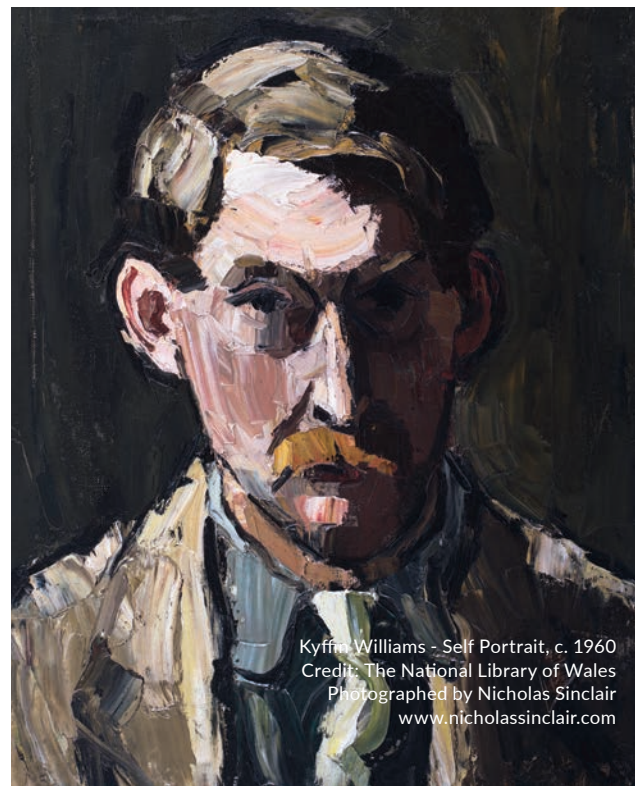
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Kyffin Williams - Self Portrait, c. 1960  
Credit: The National Library of Wales  
Photographed by Nicholas Sinclair  
[www.nicholassinclair.com](http://www.nicholassinclair.com)

## President's Letter

# A Journey of Opportunity



Being President of the OC Society is an immense privilege. The last four years have been filled with experiences and opportunities that arise from representing 7000 fellow OCs. As I write these words, I hear John Rutter's (SG 1958) music from St Paul's at the Queen's Jubilee service. OCs serve the community in so many important roles throughout the world and I can hardly believe that I have been lucky enough to meet so many of them. When I left Highgate, I had reached the dizzy heights of holding the title 'senior meal orderly'. Could I have ever imagined then that I would return as President.

It is not just the privilege of meeting the bigwigs like Daniel Hope (1995 GH) or Anthony Green RA (1951 SG) but the joy of meeting younger generations of OCs in all walks of life, who are also such a credit to our Society. The pleasure of meeting OC women, who first started joining the Society 15 years ago, adds to the diversity of talent available to the OC network. OC women are already contributing hugely to OC life by running sports teams as well as serving on the OC Committee that ultimately controls the Society, these being Dein Harry (2008 SH), Emily Scoones (2007 GH) and Nina Sorensen (2006 KG).

As President, I have been invited to concerts, receptions, and church services. One of the most moving ceremonies was to return to the School Chapel to lay a wreath on behalf of all OCs who fell in battle. I reflected how fortunate my generation of OCs are and thought of those OC friends of my father, David Brewster (1930 CH) whose lives were sacrificed for future

OCs. Whilst on solemn moments, I have met many OCs at funerals who have indulged me with nostalgic memories. Two such funerals were Roy Giles's, Headmaster of Highgate 1974-89, and Alan Palmer's, head of history at Highgate (1951-1969). Their obituaries can be read in this edition.

When you leave school, you cannot imagine ever enjoying a conducted tour, but that is exactly what I have done on several occasions. The Head has wisely adopted a policy of trying to teach the OC President a little about how the School works. What I can tell you is that it is a hugely complex organisation run by a diverse and talented team. My role also opened the door to a visit to LAE Tottenham where Highgate are co-sponsors of this highly successful academy located in a deprived area. Again, I was privileged to receive a private tour by its Head, Jan Balon. Their smart new premises are literally a bridge away from their neighbours and fellow sponsors, Spurs. Without any arm twisting, I found myself on a personal trip around the magnificent new stadium, which includes its own brewery!

Whilst mentioning football, I was lucky enough to be present on the touchline of the 1<sup>st</sup> XI pitch when the OCs beat Chigwell to win the league and on that same day, we learnt that our 2<sup>nd</sup> XI had also been promoted. To share the joy of the team without having to get muddy and injured is a great bonus as a President. The OC sports teams know how to party as I have discovered at the OC Cricketers' dinner and the Golf Society dinner.

Over the last year, the OC regions have been reorganised by Cities, and I had the pleasure of joining OCs for lunch in Bristol and more recently drinks in Oxford. Sadly, I missed the Leeds reunion. Being entertained by OCs in Melbourne, Victoria remains a highlight and is certainly the furthest I have travelled on OC business.

What about the highlights and lowlights of my term? Unquestionably the best part has been working with such a bright and friendly group of people. The OC committees are all volunteers who give much time and effort to provide activities, sporting and others for OCs.

They are the heart and soul of the Society. Without their commitment the Society would no longer be able to claim it is independent and run by OCs for OCs. This is only possible because of the administration provided by the Development Office at the School, led until last month by Emily Clarke. It has been a joy to work with Emily and Stuart Evans i/c OC relations. Stuart, as a former head of year and respected teacher, has expanded the numbers of OCs with whom we meet, particularly those OCs who left school in the last 20 years. I can honestly say that what has made the job of President such a pleasure has been the delightful people with whom one works. I take this opportunity to thank my OC colleagues for their friendship and commitment and the Development Office staff for all their hard work. These successful relationships would not have happened without the Head's quiet but determined support, for which the Society is most grateful. The low point of my Presidency remains, having to cancel the Stationers' Hall OC dinner at five days' notice, due to COVID-19.

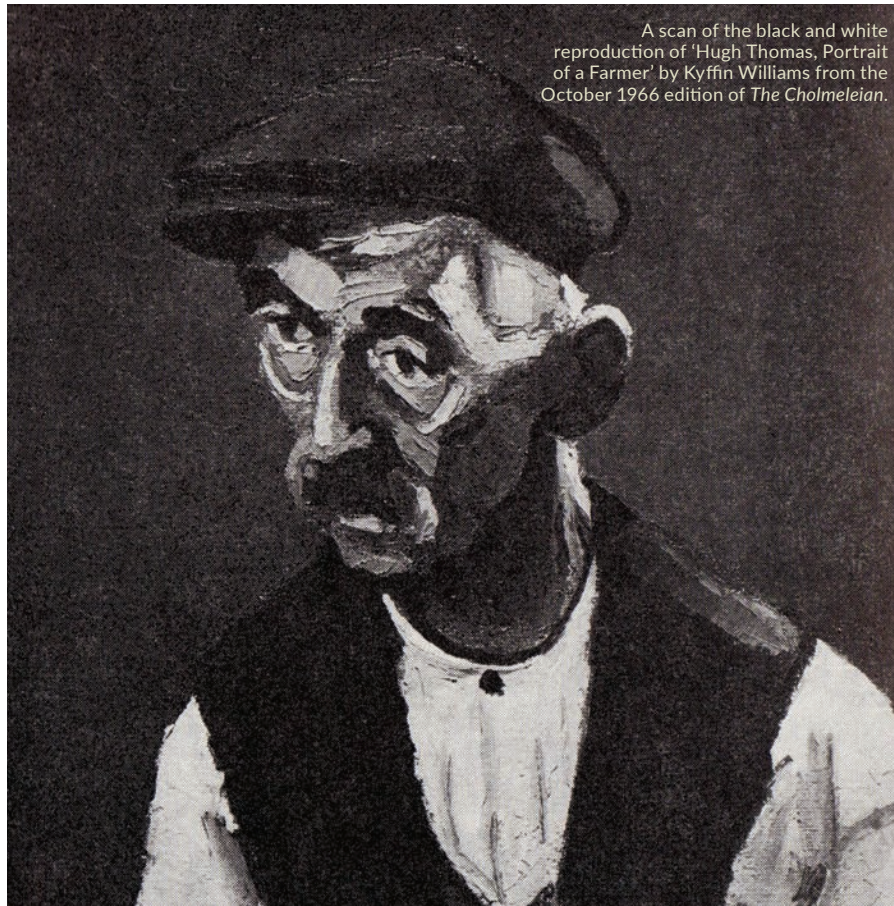
What about the future? The future lies with the OC Committee, and we are most fortunate to have a strong team. My deputy, Martin Pyrke (GH 1967) has helped me greatly over the last year and his love of the OC Sports Club at Hendon Wood Lane means that he is well placed to cooperate with the School and the OCSC trustees on the future re-investment in this valuable sports facility. Martin has a history of service to the Society starting with his 1<sup>st</sup> XI football and moving on to his participation in OC golf. He has been an active and influential member of the Committee and by the time you read this message I have every reason to believe you will have elected Martin as your new President at our AGM on 29th June.

A big thank you to all OCs for allowing me the opportunity to represent you. It has been a great honour and it will be with pride that I hand over the baton later this month to Martin. I know that you will all want to join me in wishing him every success over the next two years

**Richard Brewster (CH 1959)**  
*Old Cholmeleians President*



# Kyffin Williams Lecture



A scan of the black and white reproduction of 'Hugh Thomas, Portrait of a Farmer' by Kyffin Williams from the October 1966 edition of *The Cholmeleian*.

**The 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Kyffin Williams Lecture** was delivered online in February by Julian Halsby OC (HG 1961) on the subject of Kyffin's 'influences and opinions'.



Kyffin had, of course, been Highgate's Art Master from 1944-73 before returning to his native Anglesey. Julian had very kindly come to the rescue after the original speaker reluctantly withdrew on health grounds. Back in 2010 he had given the second KW talk to a packed AV Room in the Mills Centre but on this occasion he reached an even larger audience via Zoom from his home in Sherborne. On both occasions he suggested that his former art teacher had drawn inspiration from the likes of William Turner, Gustave Courbet,

Emil Nolde and of course Vincent van Gogh, supporting his thesis with over a hundred persuasive images. Towards the end, Julian touched on Kyffin's feelings about what he saw as the shortcomings in art education and the modern art establishment. The Welsh artist felt detached from the modern art scene, admitting that he was perhaps old-fashioned but bemoaning the fact that little contemporary work seemed to be done with love and despairing at artists whose sole aim seemed to be to make money.

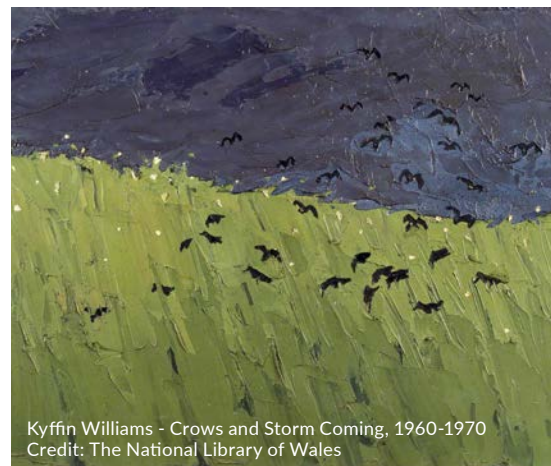


Julian has been a good friend to the School over the years, returning several times in the 1970s and 80s to give voice to art via the General Studies programme. In the summer of 1980 this magazine reported that 'with slides galore he [had] brought the Post-Impressionists alive.' At about the same time he and his wife Miranda, also an artist, took over the long-established picture framers in the Village. In a letter to *The Cholmeleian*, he announced that the renamed 'Highgate Gallery' hoped 'to provide varied and interesting exhibitions of the quality expected of West End galleries, but not at West End prices, in addition to an extensive framing service carried out in one of the very few purpose-built framing workshops in London.' Before, during and after running the gallery Julian pursued an academic career. He worked in a number of London art colleges as Senior Lecturer and Head of Department and has published six books on art history and many articles. He continues to lecture for The Arts Society, the operating name of the National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts Societies (NADFAS). Julian had also had correspondence published in the magazine whilst still at School, regretting 'the fact that lost property [was] rarely returned' and referring to the perennial 'question of House colours', saying that 'the

arguments in favour of awarding colours to a musician or chess player need hardly be repeated.' He was a member of the editorial staff from May 1965 to October 1966, and editor of the May 1966 *Cholmeleian*, which included creative work by members of the School for the first time, providing 'a living and, therefore, a more accurate account of life at Highgate.'

In the following edition, Julian Halsby contributed an authoritative article on the centenary of the Chapel, atmospherically illustrated by Roger Kean (TL 1961). On another page there was a reproduction (in black and white) of a portrait by Kyffin Williams of a farmer called Hugh Thomas (opposite page). It seems that Kyffin was in the habit of loaning paintings to the School in order to decorate rooms and offices, and this was one that Julian remembered fondly. It is now in the collection of Bangor University and should be crossing the Menai Strait this summer for an exhibition entitled 'Schoolmaster Artist: Kyffin Williams and London', which I am helping to curate at Oriel Môn on Anglesey. I am very grateful to the Bursar and to the Archivist for several loans that the School will be making for the show and hope that a detour to Llangefni might be considered should you happen to be in North Wales between 16 July and January of next year.

**David Smith, Heritage Officer**



Kyffin Williams - Crows and Storm Coming, 1960-1970  
Credit: The National Library of Wales



Vincent van Gogh - Wheatfield with Crows, 1890  
Credit: Van Gogh Museum

In his talk, Julian Halsby compared paintings by Kyffin Williams and Vincent van Gogh.



Photograph courtesy of The National Library of Wales

### Self Portrait, c. 1960

*Oil on canvas, Highgate School*

This 'mirror image' self-portrait (on this issue's cover) featured in an exhibition entitled *Kyffin Williams: New Paintings* at the Leicester Galleries in October 1961, and was subsequently bought by Highgate School for £84.

This photograph (left) shows Kyffin holding the painting in his studio in Holland Park, where he lived from roughly 1960 to 1963.



# A History of Highgate's Colours



**Sporting colours or colours** are awarded to students of a university or school who have excelled in sport. Many schools also award colours for academic excellence or for non-sporting extra-curricular activities.

Colours have their origins back in the 19<sup>th</sup> century when Oxford and Cambridge met in 1829 for the First Boat Race. Each team chose a colour to differentiate itself from the other. The Oxford team chose dark blue and wore black straw hats with blue ribands and white jerseys with broad dark blue stripes. The Cambridge team preferred light pink and wore linen shirts with a pink necktie or sash. For the Second Boat Race in 1836, Cambridge settled on the colour light blue. These colours,

known as 'Blues', were extended to other sports from the 1860s as awards for sporting success.

Along with other public schools, Highgate began awarding colours to pupils from the 1870s. A scarcity of records concerning Highgate's colours renders it difficult to provide a detailed history of their origin and evolution. What is known is set down here and we welcome any further information from OCs on this subject.



### Cricket Colours

Organised games at Highgate date back to 1849 when there were cricket elevens. Colours initially took the form of hat bands for boaters, which were part of the 'uniform' at the time. Pictured is a boater from the archive collection showing 1<sup>st</sup> XI Cricket colours.



Caps and blazers were introduced by the Games Committee on 7 May 1883, where it was agreed that the 1st XI Cricket Club would wear carmine and white striped blazers with red caps.



This 1880s photograph (above) shows the XI in full attire on the steps of the Cricket Pavilion (completed in 1870). On 12 May 1892, a new cap was introduced to match the blazer. The colours of the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI were blue and they wore a blue and white striped blazer with a plain blue cap. The cap was replaced on 16 May 1893 with a blue and white striped cap, again to match the blazer. The 1<sup>st</sup> XI had the additional privilege of continuing to wear the 1<sup>st</sup> XI hat band.

John Alexander Hope Johnston (Head 1908-36) introduced a uniform pattern of dress for pupils, which replaced earlier individual eccentricities, and colours for cricket, football and fives were revised and extended to other sports. A new set of regulations for the awarding of colours was published in 1930. The 1<sup>st</sup> XI Cricket Club was to continue to wear the red and white striped blazer and cap, but the cap was to have the initials H.S.C.C. (Highgate School Cricket Club) on the peak. The 2<sup>nd</sup> XI colours were a blue and white striped blazer and colours for the 3<sup>rd</sup> XI were introduced at this time, a cap with H.S.C.C. on the peak.

Johnston's system continued, with some minor variations, until 1964 when a new set of regulations was published. 1<sup>st</sup> XI Cricket Club colours were a cap of red and blue halves with a white on blue school shield, a tie or cravat of broad white and silver stripes, and a blazer with a gold shield and H.S.C.C. red braid. There was also a fielding blazer (red and white stripes) and a fielding cap (red and white circles). The 2<sup>nd</sup> XI wore a tie or cravat of board blue and silver stripes. They too had a fielding blazer (blue and white stripes) and fielding cap (blue and white circles).

### Football Colours

Football fifteens existed from 1862 and colours for this sport were introduced in 1881 at a Games Committee meeting held on 20 September. The colours of the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI Football Club were crimson and blue, and a blazer was agreed on 21 July 1884. By October 1889, all three Football XIs were wearing blue velvet caps with red silk tassels (pictured) and football shirts of crimson and blue.

On 14 June 1894, the Captain of Football addressed the Games Committee. He moved that "tassel caps...are an anomaly and that they should be discarded." After some discussion, the tassel cap was abolished, and a sub-committee was elected to design new caps. These appeared in July. All three were red and blue in



quarters, but the 1<sup>st</sup> XI had the addition of the school crest worked in silver with H.S.F.C. (Highgate School Football Club) on the peak, the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI had the school crest worked in blue on a red background and the 3<sup>rd</sup> XI had a red peak and school crest. The 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> XI were allowed to wear hat bands on their boaters as part of their school uniform.

In 1930, 1<sup>st</sup> XI Football colours were a white-edged blazer with H.S.A.F.C. (Highgate School Association Football Club) in white under a white crest on the pocket, a cap with the same initials in white on the peak, and a tie. The 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> XIs wore a cap with the initials H.S.A.F.C. on the peak.



1<sup>st</sup> XI Football Team, 1932

The 1964 Regulations stated that the 1<sup>st</sup> XI Football colours were a cap of red and blue quarters with a white on blue school shield, a blue tie with thin red stripes, red and blue socks (red on the left and blue on the right), and a blazer with a red braid, gold School shield and white braid H.S.A.F.C. The 2<sup>nd</sup> XI wore a cap of red and blue circles, a red tie with thin blue stripes and plain red socks.



### Fives Colours

Pupils began playing Fives around the ruins of the old school chapel demolished in 1830. Although Fives is Highgate's oldest sport, colours were introduced later than cricket and football, in 1889. At a meeting of the Games Committee on 15 March, it was decided that a Fives cap would be worn by the six boys representing the School against the Old Cholmeleians. Sadly, there is no record describing the design of this cap. From 1930, Fives colours were magenta and blue, and the 1<sup>st</sup> VI wore a striped blazer, cap, and tie. In 1964, the 1<sup>st</sup> VI were to wear a cap of black and purple circles, a blue-purple tie with broad red-black stripes, a vest with H.S.E.F.C. (Highgate School Eton Fives Club), and a blazer with a red braid H.S.E.F.C. and gold School shield.



Fives VIII Team, 1933



### Athletics Colours

Athletics has been a sport at Highgate for as long as cricket and football. The first Sports Day took place on 3 April 1875, however it wasn't until the early 20<sup>th</sup> century that it became recognised as a major sport. Athletic colours were introduced in 1930. They took the form of a plain blue blazer, with H.S.A.C. (Highgate School Athletics Club) in white underneath a white crest on the pocket, a cap and tie. In 1964, Athletics colours had been divided into Full and Half Colours. Full colours were a blue cap with a white on blue shield and a white strip at the back, a blue tie with thin white stripes, a blazer with a red braid, gold badge and the initials H.S.A.C. on the pocket, and a blue stripe round the bottom of the shorts. They also had a vest with a blue shield and H.S.A.C., and a track suit. Half colours were simpler – a cap (as for full), a red tie with thin white stripes, shorts with a blue stripe round the bottom and a vest with H.S.A.C.

### Other sports

Swimming colours were introduced by the Games Committee on 14 December 1920. The Club wore a blue cap with a red peak and a red circle around the crown, plus a school shield in white on a red background on the front and the initials H.S.S.C. (Highgate School Swimming Club) on the peak. There was also a white badge to go on swimming costumes. Gymnasium, Boxing and Shooting colours had also been introduced by this date, but then abolished in 1924 along with swimming colours, which caused the clubs much upset. Indeed, the swimming team claimed this was the reason for their poor performance in competitions. Fortunately, the Games Committee saw sense and the shooting blazer was reintroduced in March 1925 and swimming colours followed in January 1926. By 1930, shooting colours were a blue blazer with crossed rifles and caps, and there were eight different caps for gymnasium, boxing, and swimming.



Highgate Cader Corps, c. 1930



### Major and Minor Sports

By 1964, sports had been divided into Major and Minor. Major sports were cricket, football, fives, and athletics. Minor sports were Boxing, Cross Country, Fencing, Swimming, Tennis, Tetrathlon and Golf. There was a Minor Sports Cap (lower half blue, upper half red, with white on blue shield) and a Minor Sports tie (thin white stripes on red). In addition, the minor sports had a blazer with the initials of the club on the pocket, for example, H.S.B.C. for Highgate School Boxing Club and H.S.X.C.C. for Highgate School Cross Country Club. There were also arm bands and different coloured shorts.

### Full and Half Colours

A dramatic change happened to the colours system in the 1970s. Instead of each sport having its own colours, there were now just 'Full colours' and 'Half colours'. 'Half colours may wear a red braided blazer with the name of their House in white and the appropriate letters....Full Colours may wear a red braided blazer...with the appropriate letters in red. They may also wear the School crest in red...Football Colours may wear a white braided blazer with H.S.A.F.C. in white...'. At a meeting of the Games Committee on 8 November 1979, it was decided that there would be two ties, one for full colours and one for half colours respectively, and each sport would have an insignia representing it on both ties.



### House colours

House colours were introduced for the first time by the Games Committee on 28 November 1919. House colours were to be awarded by the House Authorities to members of their Houses 'who, not having School Colours, have earned House Colours by worthily having represented the House in Football, Cricket, Fives, the Sports, Swimming, the Gymnasium, etc: these colours to consist of a piece of red braiding to be put on the edge of the ordinary School Blazer and the name of the House to be worked in white silk on the pocket underneath the School Badge.' The next mention of House Colours is in the 1970s when 'those who have House Colours may wear a red braided blazer, with the name of their House in white'.

### Non-sporting colours

The October 1967 edition of *The Cholmeleian* magazine announced the first non-sporting colours to be awarded: 'The Chess Club has passed two important landmarks this term. The first was the granting of school chess colours, which will come into effect next season'. The Bridge Club started awarding colours from 1970.

### The decline of caps, blazers, and ties

Caps across the School were abolished in 1968 by Alfred Doulton (Head 1955-74) who strove to maintain standards in the face of changing fashions in hair and dress. Blazers slowly faded out with the last being worn in 1973. Ties continued to be awarded into the 1990s when Theodore Mallinson commented on the number of ties in the Spring 1997 edition of *The Cholmeleian*. 'There are now no fewer than 16 different ties' writes Mallinson 'instead of House Colours being advertised by the name of the house on your blazer pocket, you wear a House Tie, which makes 12 ties, there is a school 1<sup>st</sup> team tie, a school ½ colour tie, a Prefect's tie, and an ordinary school tie, which makes 16. All very decorative and worthwhile.'



Following Highgate becoming co-ed, lapel badges were introduced for girls and ties continued for boys. Both also received a certificate. Today, there are Middle School Full and Half Colours and Senior School Full and Half Colours. They are awarded in four areas – Community, Drama, Music and Sport – and take the form of a framed certificate.

*We welcome any information from OCs about school and house colours, especially after 1970 where records are scarce. We are also interested in any memories you may have of colours.*



# Highgate's Olympians



Westgate House in 1921. Highgate Olympian Douglas Lowe is sixth from the left in seated row.

**As one Olympics finishes**, the next is already in the eye of keen athletes across the globe. At Highgate too, one sports season leads to another, a tradition that harks back through the School's history. The victory of holding the Victor Ludorum Cup is known to a select few Cholmeleians but how does it compare to an Olympic experience? Former pupils, William Seagrove and Douglas Lowe, went on to find out. They are among an esteemed band of OCs who represented Great Britain in the Olympics.



Rev. Kenneth R.G. Hunt

## Rev. Kenneth R.G. Hunt (Master 1908 - 45)

For former teacher, Rev. Kenneth R.G. Hunt, it was the FA Cup that started his winning streak and taste for success in 1908. A keen footballer, he earned four football blues while studying at Oxford and simultaneously joined Wolverhampton Wanderers a year before scoring the opening goal in their 3-1 victory over Newcastle United. Within weeks he was representing Great Britain in the first official football tournament of the Olympic Games, Summer 1908 in London. The team

fought through the rounds to make it to the purpose-built White City stadium for the final, where they claimed a 2-0 win over Denmark and an Olympic Gold medal.

Rev. Hunt was remembered for his friendliness and tolerance as much as his sporting prowess during his time at School, particularly by those pupils he guided as the first Housemaster of Grindal House. His spirit continues to inspire pupils, encapsulated by the black and gold colours of Wolverhampton Wanderers that Grindal continue to use today.



**William Seagrove (pupil 1909 – 16)**

Only a year after Rev. Hunt had secured his success and became a Master at Highgate, William Seagrove joined the School. While he also showed some football ability as Captain of the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI Football team, it was Athletics where he flourished. By 1916 he had won the 880m London AC Schools' Meeting. His sporting career was paused as he served for his country during the First World War. It was in the Antwerp Olympics 1920 that he was able to make his mark again, winning a silver medal in the 3000 metres team event and coming sixth place in the 5000 metres.

In 1924, Seagrove won the Amateur Athletics Championship mile in 4 minutes, 21 seconds, the Scottish Mile Championship and returned to represent Great Britain at the Paris Olympics where he repeated his success with another silver medal for the 3000 metres team race.

**Douglas Lowe (pupil 1917 – 21)**

It must have felt like a golden period for Highgate with the achievements of Douglas Lowe added to the mix. At School he was Captain of the Cricket team, in the first Football and Fives teams and won the Public School Sports Half-Mile in 1920. All this was alongside his role as Head of School. Together with Seagrove he competed in the Amateur Athletics Championship in 1924 and went on to Paris for the Olympics in 1924. After a magnificent race, he won the 800 metres for Great Britain in 1 minute, 52.4 seconds. One Gold medal was not enough, though: in 1926 he broke the world record for the 600 yards; in 1926 and 1927 he was A.A.A. half and quarter mile champion; and in 1928 he competed in the Amsterdam Summer Olympics where he triumphed again in the 800 metres and set an Olympic Record of 1 minute, 51.8 seconds.

Sport remained in Lowe's blood even after he stopped participating, with positions that included Chairman of the Universities Athletics Union

(1928 – 36), Honorary Secretary of the Amateur Athletics Association (1931-38), Council Member for the British Olympic Association (1928 – 38) and International Amateur Athletic Federation (1931-40). However, his old School also ran thick through his veins, he returned to give talks to the pupils and later became Treasurer and Chairman of Governors from 1965 until 1975.

**C.L. Vye (Master 1951 – 58)**

Known for his energy, teacher C.L. Vye was admired by the whole Highgate community. He taught every level from First Form to the Sixth as well as supporting the Cricket team, Football team and the Combined Cadet Force (C.C.F.). The annual Common Room Christmas Party was also his idea. It was at the 1956 Melbourne Olympics that he earned his Olympics blazer and Great Britain hockey cap.

**Amin Zahir (pupil 1983-89)**

Only three years after he had left Highgate, Amin Zahir was selected for the British Sabre fencing team after success in international competitions. A two-time national title winner at Senior and Under 21 level, he won two European titles and represented Great Britain in five world championships. He also received the honour of becoming the youngest-ever member of the British (Senior) team.

But it was in 1992 that he achieved the title of Olympian and participated in the Barcelona Olympics. It was an experience, Zahir described, 'that will stay with him forever, and that as he gets older realises the enormity and pride in being part of such as movement'.

One hundred years after Victor Ludorum Cup winners Seagrove and Lowe raced to triumph in the 1924 Paris Olympics, the competition will be returning to France. With two years to go, maybe there will be another Highgate champion among our School community. It will be fascinating to see who our Olympians of the future will be!



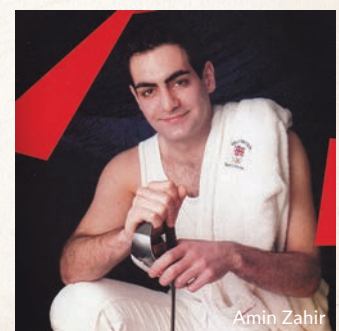
William Seagrove



Douglas Lowe



C.L. Vye



Amin Zahir



# An Obituary for Roy Curtis Giles

If any of Highgate's Headmasters can be said to have exemplified the School's motto, 'Altiora in Votis' ('Higher Things are Achieved through Prayer'), it was Roy Giles. 'I believe that the sole purpose of being on earth is the worship of God', he told 'The Cholmeleian' when he retired.

His model for a Headmaster was a Benedictine abbot; he valued quiet and calm and hated any kind of rush; he would never run anywhere. He took armfuls of work home with him, yet always had infinite quantities of time for anyone who came to see him. He wrote each boy's UCAS reference personally, and gave prospective parents guided tours of the School, practices which a time-poor modern Head would regard with a mixture of horror and bemusement.

Like an abbot, he valued the giving of hospitality, and the whole school, which he regarded as his community, 'flowed through his dining room,' in the words of Peter Stone, the Chaplain appointed the year after Roy's appointment as Head in 1974. (Roy's German-born wife, Christine, adopted the royal protocol of fiddling with her handbag as a signal to guests that it was time to leave.)

He was a lover of music and the arts; a self-confessed non-games player who commented that the English had invented cricket to give them an idea of eternity. An 'appreciation' in The Cholmeleian in his retiring year commented that: 'If he feels like exercise, he probably lies down and listens to a Beethoven quartet until the feeling wears off'. He was, nevertheless, a stalwart supporter on the touchline of football matches.

A resolute stickler for grammar and punctuation, he would always place an apostrophe before the word 'phone' and watched school reports for errors with a beady eye. His reprimands for such solecisms were famously acerbic.

He had a deadpan sense of humour. A letter he wrote to The Times went: 'Sir, A great teacher is one who can convince a class that in French, for example, the

agreement of the past participle with the preceding direct object is the most exciting fact it will encounter that day.'

Donald Amstad, recalling his time at Highgate wrote: 'Underneath his rather austere and patrician veneer was a man of great integrity, intelligence, faith and a sense of humour that was as dry as the Sahara desert. 'Do start before it gets hot', was a favourite line on serving ice-cream to the pupils on top table on a hot summer's day.'

There was, perhaps, something reserved, maybe unknowable about him, and it was said that you could never tell what he was thinking. 'He would', commented Peter Stone, 'have made an excellent poker player.'

In his time, Highgate began the transition to a day school, with the adoption of the five-day week and one of the four boarding houses, Cordell, was closed, although three remained and the last, School House, under the housemastership of the redoubtable Humphry Barnikel, only closed its doors in 1997.

Critics asserted that the retention of boarding, with places offered to the less academically able, was holding back academic standards, but Roy was determined that Highgate would not become an academic hot-house, and he commented that a school like Westminster was a 'sink or swim school, where some might sink'. In the transition to a five-day week, he was careful to keep the traditions of boarding school life, like Saturday matches, which many pupils and parents valued.

It was in building a community that his great strength lay. He appointed staff, trusted them, and left them to get on with the job, although he always had time to listen, sympathise and

offer ideas. Staff were fully involved in decision-making processes, and the transition to a five-day week was only taken after extensive consultation and a vote. Good relations with Channing resulted in some rewarding shared artistic and intellectual endeavours, and their girls joined in the School's rich dramatic and musical life. A book group flourished, with some high-profile speakers, including Salman Rushdie. Roy was a governor of the school, and Channing's head, Isobel Raphael, wrote appreciatively: 'I was invited to everything: plays, the weekly General Studies lecture, Speech Day, and I greatly valued Roy's generosity in helping me establish myself at Channing.'

Roy's daughter attended Channing before leaving for King's Canterbury in the Sixth Form. 'I missed her!' wrote Isobel.

Under his headship, art, music and drama thrived, with Gordon Tweedale's art department, situated at the top of Dyne House, achieving fine results. Gordon also assisted in the set design of Director of Drama Philip Swan's near-professional play productions, performed in the far-from ideal conditions, from a theatrical point of view, of Dyne House.

Philip, who joined the School in 1972, produced a rich diet of challenging and entertaining drama, ranging from Shakespeare to musicals. On his departure in 1991, The Cholmeleian recorded: 'We came to take the quality of the performances for granted, and it was commonplace to hear seasoned theatre-goers comparing his plays favourably with West End productions.' Many of Philip's proteges went on to careers in the theatre or the arts. Philip was always prepared to challenge



convention in his productions, and his willingness to cast 'difficult' boys often produced academic dividends. Roy was a keen supporter of the drama, and often came to productions more than once.

Under the musical direction of John March, Highgate's already rich musical tradition was enhanced by an ambitious and challenging repertoire of orchestral and choral works, and co-operation with Channing expanded the scope of choirs and orchestras.

As befits a Head who saw the Chapel as the centre of the School's life, Roy expanded the chaplaincy with the addition of an assistant chaplain, Richard Martin, who joined the School in 1986. 'Peter Stone', Richard recalled, 'insisted that I should follow his lead in always wearing clerical dress, not only in Chapel and classrooms, but on any social occasion in school circles to which one might be invited, but the first time I appeared in it I got so many catcalls from the obstreperous Highgate pupils that I reserved my cassock for Chapel use only from then on.'

More successful was Roy's introduction of an ambury, in which the Blessed Sacrament was reserved. A great deal of trouble was taken to get a design that fitted perfectly into the Victorian Chapel and the Bishop of London, Graham Leonard, came to install the Blessed Sacrament.

Roy ensured that sport and games were also an important feature of school life, and Geoff Williams, as Head of Games, and Al Richards, as Head of Swimming, maintained an ambitious programme throughout the year, with many successes, particularly in athletics and swimming. Under the leadership of Brian Matthews, Highgate's fives playing went from strength to strength, and he established Highgate's national reputation at this sport.

As a recognition of this, Roy began an ambitious development plan to fund a new sports centre, which was officially opened in 1989 by John McGregor, the Secretary of State for Education, whose wife was a governor of the School. It was named in honour of Theodore Mallinson, who, since his retirement, had become a one-man alumni office and roving ambassador for the School. The Friends of Highgate financed a



world trip for him in 1980 to meet OCs in distant parts of the world, and during Roy's headship, he celebrated his eightieth birthday.

Nicknamed the 'Mally Pally', the sports centre had an Olympic-sized swimming pool, and facilities for newer sports, such as basketball.

Roy also oversaw the funding and development of the Garner Building, in which the teaching of mathematics was given fuller scope. Much work was needed with these projects, as the School's finances were still indebted after the construction of the Dining Hall by Alfred Doulton. Roy also purchased the Tabernacle in Southwood Lane, which, after an unhappy incarnation as a Sixth Form Centre, became the School's Library until the conversion of Central Hall produced the Sir Martin Gilbert Library.

On retiring, Roy looked back over his career and commented: 'I don't want to be pretentious about it, but I do think that the worthwhile things in life are those that have something to do with people and relationships, and there is a lot of fun in it. It gives satisfaction although you may have to wait years and years to see it come to fruition.'

An example of the sort of satisfaction to which he referred comes by way of a letter found by his daughter, Caroline, in his papers after his death. It is a letter from a former pupil, taught by Roy early in his career at Dean Close: 'I cannot exaggerate the importance of the role you played in opening up for me the world of languages and literature, in particular the language and literature of Germany. You instilled in me a love of language that continues to this day and for which I am eternally grateful.'

Roy Curtis Giles was born in 1932, and educated at Queen Elizabeth's School, Barnet, winning from there an Open Scholarship to Jesus College, Cambridge. He read for a Master's in Modern Languages, specialising in German and French.

His first teaching appointment was at Dean Close which was followed by three years teaching English at the University of Hamburg, where he met Christine von Alten, from an aristocratic family. They were married in Hannover in 1963. In the same year, they moved to England, where Roy had been offered the post of assistant master at Eton College. He remained there until 1974, ending his time at Eton as Head of Modern Languages.

As befits a man whose life was led by his faith, Roy served from 1972 on the Advisory Council for the Church's Ministry, as well as serving as a governor of Channing, and The Hall preparatory school in Hampstead.

Retired from teaching, he immersed himself in working for the Bugosa Trust. The Trust was inspired by a sermon given by a bishop from Bugosa in a Chelsea Parish Church. He told the congregation how his people were suffering under Idi Amin and invited them in the words of Jesus to the Apostle, Andrew, to 'Come and See.'

The Trust was established to provide finance, tools, expertise and equipment, working with Ugandans to provide sustainable access to clean water, and improving hygiene and sanitation. For twenty years, Roy was the trust's administrator also involved in organising finances and ensuring money arrived safely.

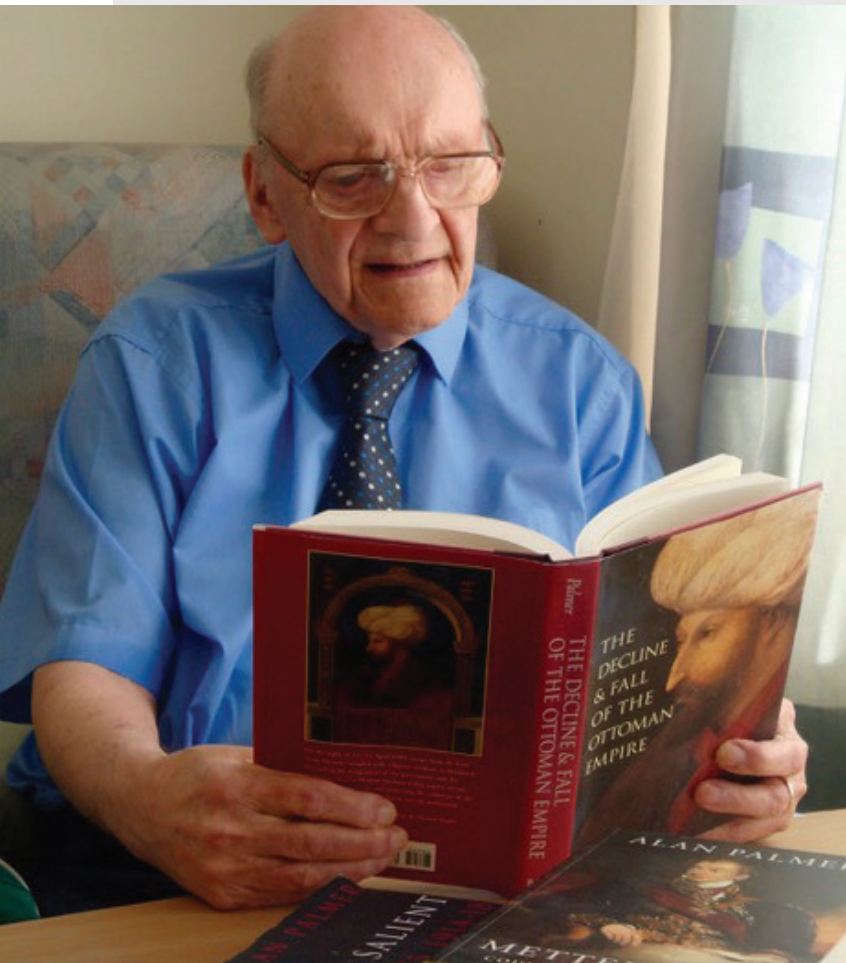
Roy retired to Devon and eventually Chattan Court, Axminster, where he was fully involved in the life of the Church, although the Rector of the Parish, John Hobart Good, recalled at his funeral that: 'from time-to-time Roy found himself at odds with news from the Church of England. He could be critical and despondent, but he remained loyal and devout.'

At the end of Roy's funeral service, John Hobart Good summed him up: 'A person in whom one could safely confide and seek advice; a man admired and respected and whose passing through the gate of death is rewarded by his joyful meeting with our Lord in glory.'

**Simon Appleton**



## An Obituary for Alan Palmer



### We remember our teachers.

Not all, dying at 95, will have a memorial article in the school magazine 52 years after leaving, when their youngest pupils are rising 70. Notice of Alan's death prompted recollections however which are for sharing.

Alan became Head of History in 1951, an Ilford boy who had won a scholarship to Bancroft's School at Woodford, and then combined Service in the Navy with studying History at Oxford. He was twenty-five. A remarkable appointment we may think. T N (Freddie) Fox, his close colleague in Mod. VI, explained it: "as soon as he appeared - in person, his handwriting was so abominable as to raise considerable doubts - there wasn't any question about it, on grounds of intellect and personality" (*The Cholmeleian*, 1970).

So, to pupils' words: "A great teacher and historian." "I shall never forget learning history under Alan Palmer. He had a wonderful ability to bring European history to life." "His description of the murder of Archduke Franz Ferdinand and the subsequent escalation into the First World War had us all on the edge of our seats." I too was his pupil. Alan had the capacity to give you the big picture, highlighted with some apt and often salacious detail. Over his eighteen years at Highgate the count of Oxbridge awards was about three per year. But pupils' appreciation is not just from students of history.



“Even as a sciences’ student I was privileged to attend sixth form classes given by him. An exceptional man and communicator.” “We scientists had a good deal as well of the humanities, and both T N Fox and Palmer were inspirational men and brilliant intellects”. I have a friend who testifies, remarkably, to the effect on the course of his life of a single lesson Alan took. Just a few years ago he wrote to say that. Alan in his reply remembered the lesson.

**“A teacher and historian who brought history to life and became a prolific and respected author.”**

Another memory. “Although I was never taught by him, I have great memories of him and Freddie Fox umpiring together in senior house cricket matches on 1st Club. Any appeal by the fielding side was met with fear by the batsmen!”

In 1969, as it seemed abruptly, he left the classroom to research and write. In fact, he was already author of five books with the focus, which would remain his forte, on Eastern Europe and the Balkans in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. In 1962 there was also the “Dictionary of Modern History”, Penguin edition 1965, which pupils were wary of quoting. Then, he wrote later, “came the biggest temptation of all: the offer of a four-book contract from George Weidenfeld”.

Twenty-nine books followed, up to “*The Wireless in the Corner*” (2016), not a history but a memoir of his boyhood, already suggestive of his later interests and concerns.

Alan’s books were essentially narratives based on thorough research and trenchant analysis. He had a good eye too for readership. Reprinting showed that, and translations into other languages. And into the writing he carried the experience of the teacher. These are his own words: “In my biographies and narrative histories, I try to apply ways used to inspire Sixth Formers at Highgate”.

Historian, teacher, writer. It is important in their regard to write more too about Alan personally. As pupils you know only so much about your teachers. Over time I came to know Alan, and his wife Veronica, as friends, and so did my wife, and our children. I learned how many of their friendships were from their Highgate years, Common Room colleagues, other pupils. Alan and Veronica had a great capacity for friendship.

As a couple they had many enthusiasms: cricket, travel, theatre, and dance, especially ballet. In each case they shared them with family and friends. Themselves without children, they invited godchildren, young relations, children of friends. Living outside Oxford, at Woodstock, they were hospitable as ever.

When Veronica died, in 1996, he missed her sorely. But through the years since, the friendships have been sustained and new ones made, as has been support both given and received in time of need. Their church after moving to Woodstock was St Mary Magdalen in Oxford, High Church Anglican. It was important to him in many ways, and he served it well. Unsurprisingly, he researched and wrote its history. It was there that his funeral, like Veronica’s, was held, with family, former colleagues, pupils, and friends,



Alan with his wife Veronica, 1994

either there or represented: OCs by the Chairman, Richard Brewster. Some years ago, Alan had asked me to give the Address.

The pupil to whom the final word must be given is Sir Martin Gilbert, himself by any reckoning outstanding as historian, and biographer, especially of Churchill, and whose name the school’s library now bears.

Writing, at Alan’s suggestion, a book on the 1916 Battle of the Somme, Sir Martin wrote this dedication: ‘To my teacher, Alan Palmer, whose encouragement, beginning at school, has been consistent for more than fifty years, I dedicate this most recent assignment’.

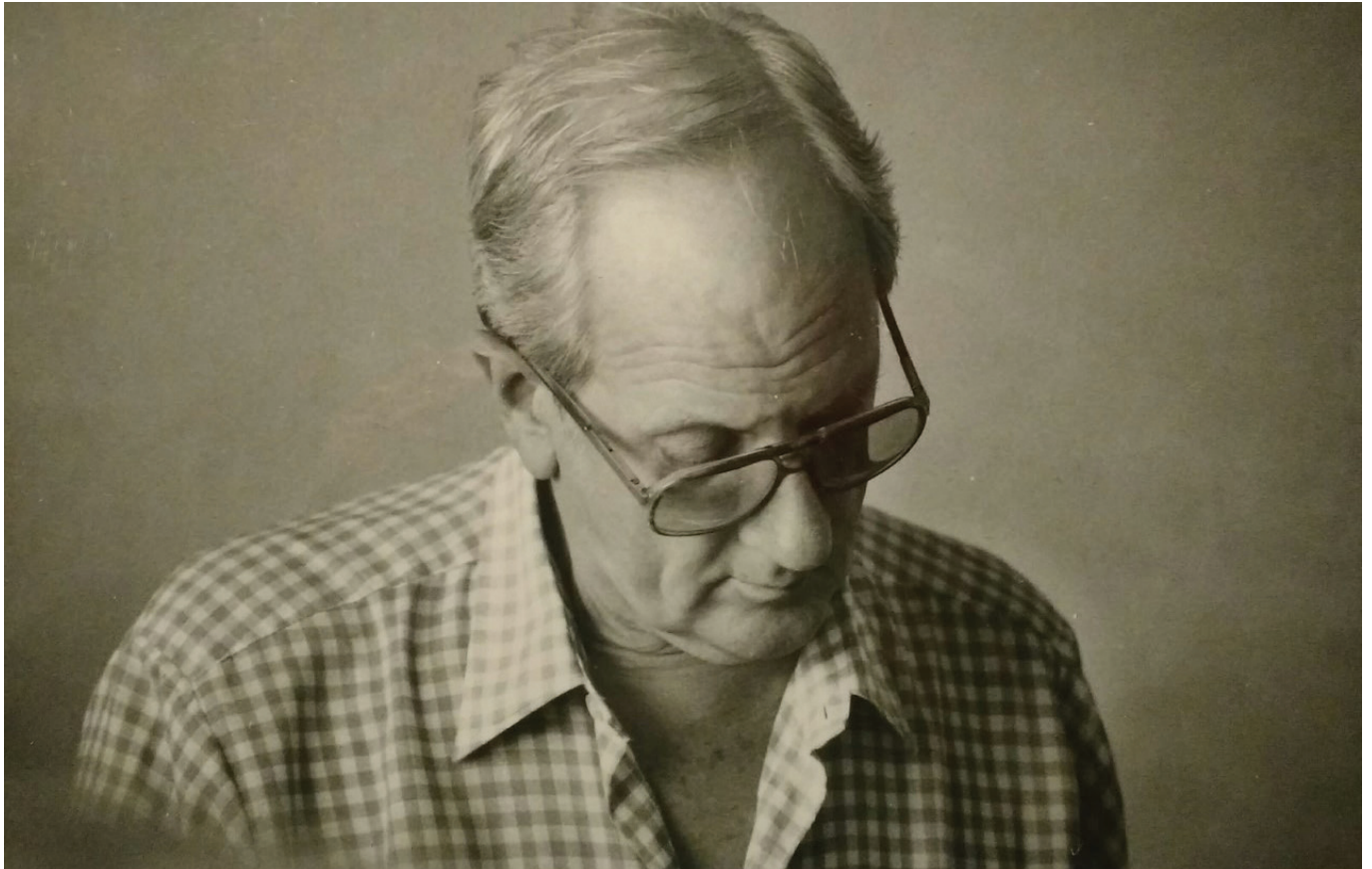
Historian, teacher, writer, friend. Alan’s keen interest in people, evinced by his many friendships, played its part I believe in making him the distinctive, distinguished person by whom many are thankful to have been taught, even so long ago, and to have known.

**Rev. Dr. Brian Curnew (SH 1960)**



# A Highgate Legacy

*Celebrating young writers and journalists*



**In 2019, we learned of a legacy gift** from an OC Derek Ingram OBE (EG 1939). Derek was a prolific diarist and writer whilst still a pupil at Highgate. He went on to a long and distinguished career in journalism and was passionate about encouraging and supporting local young journalists.

Derek wished that his legacy should benefit as diverse a group of young people as possible. In keeping with his bequest and to honour his memory at Highgate, the School established the Derek Ingram Prize for arts journalism. So far, 11 pupils from Highgate and LAE Tottenham have been awarded the prize for their creative writing, features, and reviews, not only recognising their originality and talent but also helping them to build confidence for any journalistic career.

Derek Thynne Ingram had just arrived at Highgate at the outbreak of the Second World War. He loved everything to do with newspapers and journalism, but discovered early on that writing is a craft as well as an art. Just like music or sport, if journalism is to sound effortless, it has to be practised. Throughout his life, Derek wrote something every day.

When Highgate School evacuated to Westward Ho!, Derek was homesick and couldn't bear to be away from the news and the action. He persuaded the school to let him return to London and wrote notebooks of war diaries, chronicling the progress of the allied forces, giving a sharp and interesting schoolboy's view of world politics at that time. We are fortunate to have all of these notebooks in Highgate's archives.

There was little doubt what he wanted to do, and his first job was on Fleet Street. At first, he made the tea and ran errands, but within 18 months he was a sub-editor responsible for shaping the front page of a national daily. At 18 he joined the navy, and when his commanding officers learned he could write, he was sent to Rome, where he met other young journalists. After the war he worked on Fleet Street again,





On holiday in Kent with his parents in 1939.



As a sub editor on Fleet Street, 1950.

becoming deputy editor of the Daily Mail (a very different newspaper in those days) by his early thirties.

Derek was a storyteller. Everything he wrote told a compelling story. He believed that even a scoop only becomes exciting if you tell it properly. He visited dozens of countries all over the world, travelling and writing constantly. He was sometimes distracted by unexpected visitors. I found this passage in an article he wrote in Jamaica:

*"Something very odd was happening. As I sat typing a story and turned up the paper, a vertical red line was beginning to appear on the white sheet. It was one morning in 1975. A Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting was taking place and I was working at my portable typewriter in a room in the Liguinea Club in Kingston, where I was staying. The line on the paper grew. Then I noticed something: the head of a gecko poking out at the back. The creature was trapped. What to do? Not only the gecko's life but my typewriter could be ruined, clogged by the poor creature's innards. I ran from my room to a colleague next door. "Help, Patrick," I shouted, "there's a gecko in my typewriter!"*

Happily, the gecko survived. It had simply shed its tail.

When he started his own news agency, it was always important to him to encourage and support young writers, and throughout his long life, he often told stories of his years at Highgate School. He believed it was there that he began his own career as a journalist.

One of the first winners of the Derek Ingram Prize explains what it has meant to him:

*What was so exciting about the Derek Ingram Prize was that it gave an opportunity to write and think about literature outside of the limits of A levels. Stuck at home during the pandemic, the opportunity to write freely about a topic that interested me was a moment of release from the claustrophobia of lockdown. The prize provided a space for me to write about the Arts, and I have since gone on to contribute work to my college art magazine (the '1555'), as well as working on its editorial team. Unlike many prizes, the Derek Ingram award was not framed as a competition - the focus is on producing journalism about topics that excite you and presenting this work in a compelling way. Winning the book tokens is a great reward, but the process of producing a piece of writing on your own terms is what is most valuable about the prize. Whether you want to get involved in student journalism at university, apply for internships, or just have the freedom to explore different types of writing, the Derek Ingram Prize provides an impetus to foreground your voice and your interests. Lochie Springett (TL 2020)*

Storytelling is a territory, free and unrestricted. We hope that Derek Ingram's legacy will both encourage and inspire young writers. The award is an invitation to everyone to travel freely in your mind whilst not leaving home or school, and to write the stories that only you can tell.

**Contributions by Nick Hall (Godson of Derek Ingram)**

Throughout Highgate's history, the School has had the honour of receiving support from OCs. Without this, Highgate wouldn't be able to provide nearly 100 pupils every year with a bursary; nor would we be able to act as the primary educational sponsor for the 550 students at the London Academy of Excellence Tottenham.

If you would like additional information about leaving a gift in your Will, please contact The Development Office by emailing:

[development@highgateschool.org.uk](mailto:development@highgateschool.org.uk)



# Highgate School Fundraising

## *A summary for OCs*

### Highgate's Charitable Priorities

#### 1 Expanding bursary provision

In 2021-22 there were 95 bursary holders in the Senior School. In September 2022 the bursary programme will expand to the Junior School, for children starting aged 7. Welcoming pupils on bursaries at this age will give Highgate longer to have an even more transformational impact.

#### 2 LAET and partner state schools

Highgate is the main educational sponsor of LAE Tottenham, a sixth form free school in the heart of Tottenham, which gives students the opportunity to access the very best sixth form education, ultimately culminating in places at Russell Group universities and workplace opportunities.

#### 3 Emerging needs

Highgate will also support the other important things, such as digital access and mental health provision, that help young people succeed in education. The COVID-19 pandemic showed us the importance of being nimble and able to respond to needs as they arise.

**From its original charitable foundations**, to the continued offer of fee-free places, which grew significantly in the 1860s, the founding of the Friends of Highgate School in 1945 and the start of Highgate's state school partnerships in 2008, Highgate has always been a school that educates and supports less fortunate children in its local community and beyond. Underpinning the School's charitable work today is the aim to continue supporting those that need it most in the School's community and making the School accessible to as many young people as possible.

#### Why does Highgate need to raise funds?

Highgate recognises its privileged position and its responsibility share its resources. However, unlike many independent schools.

Highgate does not have an endowment. 95% of the school's income comes from school fees.

The School's charitable work benefits enormously from the generous support of OCs, parents and other friends, which allows Highgate to deepen its impact in the community.

#### What are the strengths of Highgate's charitable work?

*Highgate is in a strong position to make a lasting, positive change:*

- Highgate's partnerships give the School unique insight into the needs in its community.
- Highgate has the trust of other organisations that can help to make a difference.
- Through its partnerships, Highgate has direct access to the young people that need the support.
- The OC community is knowledgeable, skillful and experienced.

*There are unique advantages to supporting the School:*

- Unlike many charities, Highgate's fundraising has no overheads.
- The response to Covid-19 showed Highgate the importance pivot quickly to meet emerging and urgent needs, which is now a central to the charitable work.
- The impact of voluntary and financial support is clear to see - you will be able to see the difference your support has made.



# Church building in the Jimi Valley Papua New Guinea



The Church of St John the Baptist, Koinambe  
Western Highland of Papua New Guinea

**Reverend Barrie Slatter (WG 1956)** looks back over fourteen years to the start of an adventure in Papua New Guinea, but which had its origins in Southwold, Suffolk in 2008. Paul Davies asked Barrie to tell his story.

**M**y wife Susan used to be the Chaplain of St. Felix School in Southwold. One of the former pupils, Olive Robin, had gone to PNG to teach as a missionary - and she named her school in Koinambe after her old school. Susan kept up a correspondence with St Felix Koinambe, and provided some financial support, without giving a thought to any further involvement.

In 2008, when Susan retired and we were planning another visit to Australia, she said: "Why don't we go to Koinambe on the way?" It was a very brief first visit; but before we left, we had agreed to help build a new church, so that the old church could be converted into more classrooms for the school.

On our return to England, I started working on the plans, and the following year I sent to Koinambe a detailed specification of the timber that would be needed. Plenty of timber available locally! In 2010, we returned to organise and oversee the actual construction. The timber had been cut, but - it was nearly 60km away in Mt. Hagen! The view in Koinambe was that it could be taken in small vehicles by road, but I realised that this would be a colossal task - the roads are basically unsurfaced tracks through the jungle - and a major headache. In the end, thanks to a local airline that I suspect most OCs won't have heard of - Mission Aviation Fellowship - we flew the timber up to Koinambe in their Twin Otter over the next few weeks.

By the time we left, the first few frames of the building were up, and all the foundations dug, but more importantly the people of Koinambe now knew what to do, and so over the next few weeks and months they were able to complete the structure and then put tin on the roof. In 2011, we went back again and started work on the main coloured east window, using coloured film as would be

used to tint car windows. Although the church was by now largely complete, there was still all the seating to be done.

We couldn't visit in 2012 because of security concerns connected to the local elections that year, but the local carpenters completed the seating themselves. In September 2013 Bishop Nathan Ing, the Bishop of Alpo Rongo, consecrated the now complete Church of St. John the Baptist, Koinambe. You might have thought that this would have been the natural culmination of our project, but it wasn't! Fr. Nicholas Kaam, the former priest in Koinambe, had moved to Kwima, and we were invited to visit his church there, which was constructed just from bush materials.

To cut the story short, we agreed to build him a new church in Kwima too. This time there was no airstrip nearby, and so in 2014 when we returned, we were faced with a five-hour road trip from Mt. Hagen over the unmade jungle tracks. But on the positive side, all the timber had been cut and was on site. With an excellent team of carpenters, we had half the building erected, and had started to put the roof sheeting on, within two weeks of our arrival. St. Alban's Church was completed the following year, and in August 2015, the building was consecrated by Bishop Nathan.

This still wasn't the end of the story. In 2018 we returned once more and embarked on an exhausting tour around the Jimi Valley to attend Bishop Nathan's consecration of a number of new churches in the Jimi Valley. What a welcome we received! At St. Gabriel's Church in Kwima, my wife and I were carried by four men to the ceremony - they said it was because the grass was slippery! On to Deka and another big village welcome, where we had to shake hands with the entire population. We also went back to St. John the Baptist's church in Koinambe - which we were pleased to see was wearing very well. Then we flew on to Simbai, landing on a steeply sloping airstrip: airstrips I now know don't have to be flat! There we saw the splendid new Church of St. Laurence which, yes, we had been working on over the previous two years. We never knew when to stop!



# Events

## Old Cholmeleian Annual Lunch

For this year's Annual Old Cholmeleian Lunch, 110 OCs and their partners gathered at Cutlers' Hall. Those arriving early were treated to a tour of the Hall by the Beadle who provided an entertaining history lesson of the swords on display. The tour covered everything from blades used in the execution of Charles I, to equipment designed to relieve Napoleon's haemorrhoids! OCs from nine different decades mingled merrily at the champagne reception before being called to dine in the magnificent Livery Hall. **Richard Brewster** (CH 1959), the OC President introduced his two guests of honour. First, the Head, Adam Pettitt gave a spirited talk about the School and his support for the OC Society, followed by **Andy Parkinson** (NG 1982), who entertained OCs with stories from his distinguished career in sports management, especially in his anti-doping role, which brought him into contact with controversial opponents such as President Putin of Russia!



## Regional Reunions

After a series of rearrangements due to Covid-19, it has been wonderful to see the regional OC groups reunite after so long. This past year, OCs have got together in Bristol, Oxford, Leeds and Bournemouth. At all of these events, memories have been shared, with conversation flowing and OCs reminiscing about their time at Highgate. OCs of all generations have come together, particularly at the Oxford reunion, with OCs ranging from the Class of 2021 to the Class of 1961. All are keen to meet again for more regional reunions, so don't worry if you missed yours, we shall be organising more!

## OCs at the Intersection of Politics and the Media

"Never a dull moment" - The OC Business Section was thrilled to host an online Media & Politics talk featuring **Emily Rapley** (EG 2011), **Shashank Joshi** (QG 2004) and **Henry Zeffman** (TL 2012). The event was expertly hosted by **Demi Abiola** (HG 1998). The three panellists brought their various areas of expertise to the event with great effect, answering questions on everything from "Partygate" to government influence on the media, with Demi bringing the entire event together with his skilful moderating. We were fascinated to hear Henry's comparisons between Donald Trump supporters and Fleetwood Mac fans, Shashank's opinions about the ties between British politicians and the UK media, and Emily's insight into the new ways that constituents have been engaging with politics.

## Night at the Museum: 'Tombs and Tourists'

Hosted by Heritage Consultant and History Lecturer Dr Roger Bowlder, and the School's own Archives and Heritage Officer, David Smith, the 'Tombs and Tourists' instalment of the Night at the Museum series was far from gloomy despite its chilling title. The panel explored the history of Highgate Cemetery, and the long tradition in Britain of churchyards and monuments being popular destinations for sight-seeing.



## OC LGBT Evening with Peter Scott Presland

For this year's OC LGBT event, **Peter Scott Presland** (QH 1961) gave a fascinating talk about his experience as a gay man during the 1970s. Peter discussed the politics of coming out during a time when homosexuality carried a huge amount of stigma. He also shared the importance of his role models in the work he went on to do, and the limited support and resources available to the gay community during the time.

Peter attended Highgate from 1957–1967, gaining a scholarship to St Edmund Hall, Oxford in 1968. Since then, he has worked as a journalist, playwright, cabaret performer and disability campaigner in the voluntary sector. He has also run various gay theatre companies, including what is now the oldest LGBT Theatre company in the UK, Homo Promos, which was founded in response to Section 28, a law which banned the 'promotion of homosexuality.'



## OC Creative Arts

A highlight of the OC *and* School calendar, this year's OC Creative Arts event took place at the Hawley Arms, a beloved haunt for North London musicians, including the late great Amy Winehouse. The stellar performers of the night included **Cameron Burt** (TL 2016), the star of *Mamma Mia* and *Frozen*. We also said farewell to Ms (Clare) Rodgers, after 20 years of service at Highgate. It was fantastic to see such a variety of talent, from music, to spoken word, to dance.

## Cordell House Lunch

**100 years old but not forgotten:** This was the strong message sent by the Head when he invited Cordell old boys to join him for a Centenary Lunch at his home in November. The response from former Cordellians was heart-warming as so many responded with delightful tales of happy memories and long-lasting friendships forged from the shared joys and hardships of a traditional boarding house. Those unable to attend asked for their best wishes to given to the 20+ who celebrated together.

## 'Class of' Reunions:

2010, 2011, 2006, 2002, 2015, 2016, 2000/1, 70s, 80s, 90s

This year, OCs who left the School in 2010, 2011, 2006, 2002, 2015, 2016, 2000 and 2001 all celebrated their reunions. With some taking place across the School, and others gathering in the trendy North London neighbourhood of Islington, each get-together has had a buzzing atmosphere. Many OCs have reconnected over shared memories from their time at Highgate and the new experiences they've gone on to have. OCs who attended the School during the 70s, 80s and 90s also celebrated their reunions. Attendees were treated to a tour by Stuart Evans, Head of OC Relations, taking a jaunt through Central Hall, up to the Science labs and back down to the dungeons. There were numerous remarks from OCs about how much smaller everything in the School seemed compared to when they were 11 years old. One OC said: "Although it's changed a lot - for the better - it was still great to see some of the old bits are still the same!"





# Sports

## Football

### First and Second teams secure promotion!

The OC First XI won seven league matches in a row, gaining promotion to the Premier Division. Following an impressive 8-0 away victory in March, the Cholmeleians kept up their winning streak with a 5-2 return triumph against Chigwell on 2 April. What an achievement for all the players, including coach **Mark Collins** (HG 1971) and captain **Archie Patch** (QG 2012). This young team have played superbly over the last few months and the future looks very bright for this cohesive group.

The OC Second XI came out victorious on 26 March, beating Tonbridge 3-0, earning themselves consecutive promotions, which sees them as the highest-placed second team in the Arthurian Leagues. Years of dedication and impressive work by current Captain **George Brenman** (GH 2014), together with some consistent performances by the team, have been rewarded with this fantastic achievement.

The club is always looking to welcome new players, young and old, as they look to build on this successful year.



## Real Tennis

### Cattermull Cup 2021

On 26<sup>th</sup> September the OCs competed in the Cattermull Cup, the annual public schools' real tennis handicap doubles tournament.

Real tennis is played in an enclosed court with cork-cored balls and asymmetrical racquets. Like fives, it evolved from a game played with bare hands that emerged in France in the 12<sup>th</sup> century. By the 16<sup>th</sup> century it had become a racket sport and there were thousands of tennis courts across Europe. Today there are just 50 courts worldwide, most of them in the UK. The term 'real' is a 20<sup>th</sup> century retronym used to distinguish it from the modern game of lawn tennis.

The OCs entered two pairs in this year's competition, but sadly the first pair of **Andrew Lloyd** (EG 1966) and **Tony Friend** (NG 1967) had to withdraw following an injury suffered by Lloyd. That left **Christopher Hancock** (EG 1966) and **Gareth Zundel** (MG 1971) as the sole OC representatives.

Hancock and Zundel opened their account with an emphatic 6-1 victory over the Leys School. The second match vs Clifton College started well with Highgate winning the first three games. But Clifton fought back with impressive grit and tactical discipline to win 6-3. The final match against Winchester College was a thriller. Highgate

again won the first three games, but the stylish Wykehamist pair fought back well. Winchester's Jonathan Potter played with guile while the youthful and athletic Felix Delaforce attacked every rally with explosive power.

Hancock attacked well with his forceful volleying and Zundel defended with many deft retrievals off the back wall. Winchester eventually won 6-5, denying the OCs a place in the knockout stage of the competition. After 13 schools were eliminated, the grand final was contested between the OC's Nemeses.....Clifton and Winchester, with the Wykehamists finally taking the 2021 trophy.

Our thanks to Paul Cattermull as well as Chris and Will, the professionals at Middlesex University Real Tennis Club (<https://murtc.co.uk>), for organising a great tournament.

If you would like to learn more about getting involved with Real Tennis, please click on 'Get Involved' in the Real Tennis section of the OC website ([www.oldcholmeleians.org/sports](http://www.oldcholmeleians.org/sports)).



Christopher Hancock (left) and Gareth Zundel



## Golf

This year we were back to our usual season timetable which began with the Halford Hewitt. Following a tough first round draw last year, we were drawn against Aldenham who are of a similar level to Highgate. Aldenham beat the OCs quite comfortably back in 2014. This year however, it was a more memorable day in sunny yet windy conditions, as Highgate were victorious. With 2 points apiece, it all came down to the final match out where regular **Mark Walton** (FG 1976) was playing with Hewitt debutant **Luke Nokes** (KG 2002). With the rest watching on, Mark continued to split the fairway off the tee and Luke followed up with piercing irons into the wind to the heart of the greens. In the end, they held off a late recovery to finish with a 2&1 win just after sunset meaning Highgate won the match 3-2. We therefore qualified for the second round for the first time since 2015. Alas, we then came up against the highly ranked Radley and were soundly beaten. Historically we have had our Spring Meeting at Hadley Wood, but during Covid they were not entertaining visiting societies, so we were incredibly happy to go back to Hadley Wood at the end of April this year. We had 19 players attend with two new OCGS members, **Tim Brown** (WG 1990) and **Akash Saha** (NG 2009). The morning was an individual Stableford competition, with **Ian Blackman** (MG 1979) winning the



Ian Blackman being presented the Scratch Salver

Scratch Salver, whilst **Marc Thomas** (SH 1970) had the best Stableford score of the day with 39 points winning the Tiger Cup. Other morning winners were **Chris Harris** (MG 1971) winning the Merton Jones Cup with 34 points, and Society Captain **Andrew Gibson** (GH 1961) winning the Stroke less Age event with a score of 15. The afternoon Foursomes event for the HF Edwards Cups was won by **Graham Dunbar** (MG 1970) & **Peter Barnes** (FG 1957).

Next up was the Graton Morrish qualifying at Royal Wimbledon on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> May.

We had qualified for the Finals in three of the last four qualifying events (2020 cancelled for Covid). Unfortunately, we failed to qualify this year in what was a slightly lower scoring year for all schools. Usually, one pair will have a good round, but on this occasion all three pairs were middle of the road 24



Foursomes Winners

points each. We failed to qualify by just 3 points.

The last event of the early season was the Horns of Highgate on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> May. We were back to our usual 'shotgun start' in the morning followed by lunch with the traditional Horns winner's ceremony the School's Deputy Head Todd Lindsey.' With fine weather and a good field including 15 OCs, we all had a very enjoyable day. The Old Cholmeleian winner on the day was **Josh O'Neill** (WG 2014).

We now move into the meat of the season with several friendly matches against other school alumni societies, as well as the Darwin competitions for the over 55s.

If anyone is interested in joining the Old Cholmeleians Golf Society, please click on 'Get Involved' in the Golf section of the OC website ([www.oldcholmeleians.org/sports](http://www.oldcholmeleians.org/sports)).

## Fives

### Success at Eton!

The 2022 Mixed Eton Fives Tournament was won at Eton College by **Emily Scoones** (GH 2009) and **Jonny Ho** (MG 2008), who came through a talented mixed field. Having played some excellent fives in the preliminary stages, Emily and Jonny qualified for their sixth successive final, with the previous five all ending in (often very narrow) defeat.

If you would like to learn more about participating in Fives, please click on 'Get Involved' in the Fives Section of the OC website to get in touch with the team.





# Finding strength in the face of adversity

Guy Yashiv (QG 2020)



**Highgate's Guy Yashiv**, a Y14 pupil, shares his inspiring story of success, overcoming a life changing diagnosis during his crucial exam years. We caught up with Guy as he heads to UCL to study Mathematics and Management Studies.

**You were diagnosed with leukaemia in April 2018, just as you were about to sit your GCSEs, which must have been a terrifying prospect. How did you find strength, emotionally and physically, to push ahead with your exams?**

"A cancer diagnosis is all-encompassing: it impacts absolutely everything, physically and emotionally, and that includes schoolwork. It's difficult to articulate the exact feeling of receiving a diagnosis like it, but one thing I can say is that it is truly earth-shattering. You just feel as though a massive bubble has suddenly burst; you've been thrown into

this abyss of uncertainty and fear, and there's nothing else you can think about. I thought my life and my future were now solely in the hands of this disease, and that I was powerless against it. Of course, I assumed my upcoming GCSEs were out the window. What I came to learn, though, was just how much faith and belief in myself could help push me through it all. The experience has taught me a resilience and strength I didn't know I had in me, and those qualities (along with the support I received from those around me) were vital on my journey to completing the exams.





The bedroom desk where Guy had chemotherapy infusions and sat his exams

I found out I would need to have seven months of very intense treatment, some of which would require spending several weeks in hospital. At a certain point during my initial two-week spell as an inpatient, after the reality of my circumstances had set in, I realised there was nothing stopping me continuing with my GCSEs. I asked my parents to drop off my textbooks at the hospital, and I got to work. In all honesty, it was very hard – having chemotherapy, antibiotics and blood transfusions all the while trying to write essays or complete practice papers. I had to immediately adapt to my new surroundings, but none of it put me off – I felt inspired to give it a go.”

#### Where did you find comfort in the face of adversity?

“I was put in touch with **Andrew Nseir** (QG 2017), a former Highgate pupil, who was also diagnosed with Leukaemia during his GCSEs. I felt we had a shared experience, and he could understand what I was going through in a way not many others could. Just to know that he managed to get through it and sit some of his exams gave me motivation that it was possible, and I stuck with it. The school were amazing, and my teachers went above and beyond – they gave me every support I needed. They didn’t put any pressure on me to continue with my GCSEs, but when I told them I was going for it, they committed themselves

to my goal. I formed this unique bond with some of my teachers, which continued all the way through to the end of my time at Highgate, all due to an experience no 16-year-old should have to go through; I felt from them mutual respect, a kind of acknowledgement of the difficulties I was now facing, which really helped.

I did my GCSEs at home with an invigilator in my room. It was one of the strangest experiences! I was at home, feeling as though I could have been doing any old mock paper, but it was the real thing – an official exam paper sitting on my desk! What made it more surreal was the fact that my exams were sometimes scheduled on the same days that nurses would come in to give me chemo. To have chemotherapy infusions early in the morning, and then an exam hours later, sounds a bit insane! But I was determined to push through it and give it a go. Everyone from my family gave me such support, and just like everything, you can’t really do it on your own, you need a support network. They were strong for me, and that in turn gave me strength.

Ms Verity Smith, my Head of House [now Head of Sixth Form (Pastoral)] was out of this world, both on a pastoral and personal level. I owe so much of my achievement to her and the endless support she provided to me and my family. If I had to name one person who

helped get me through this the very most at the school, it would be her. Mr Pettitt, my Mathematics, Chemistry, Physics and Theology teachers, and the whole Exams Office were so crucial to my success; it meant a lot to see the school coming together to support me in a way I didn’t expect.

As part of my treatment, I also needed weekly blood tests at the Royal Free, but amazingly, the School arranged for the community team to come into Highgate and allowed me to have the tests done in our nurses’ office. This saved me a huge amount of travelling around and meant I could have it done between lessons. Because the School nurses then knew me, they were so friendly and checked up on me whenever I saw them. It was important to know I wasn’t alone.

Though it may sound strange, and even counterproductive, one of the things that gave me the most comfort was challenging myself in the face of this adversity: it was to prove to myself that if I could manage extraordinary things despite the physical and mental trauma I was experiencing, I could most definitely beat cancer. That is the attitude I adopted throughout my entire journey, and it is one I will take with me for the rest of my life. It’s that attitude that also helped me through my Sixth Form studies and A levels with chemotherapy treatment ongoing throughout those years.



Guy (with twin brother Tomer, right) ringing the end of treatment bell at the Royal Free Hospital this Summer

**You were given the all-clear just the week before receiving your Further Maths A level result this August. What was the lead up to this like?**

“Since November 2018, I had been undergoing what’s called ‘maintenance’ therapy, which meant receiving lower doses of chemotherapy compared to the intensive period. What’s unbelievable is that you learn just how amazing the human body is at adapting to the physical and emotional strains that it is put under.

In that first summer of cancelled exams, I got my result for Single Maths, Physics and Theology. In Y13 I decided to drop Chemistry and switch it for Further Maths. This was another example of how the school was very supportive. The only reason it was possible was thanks to a partnership programme running with external pupils in the local area, so I was able to join that. The Maths department staff – Mrs Harriet Nicholls and Dr Carmelo Di Natale – were the driving force of the programme. The hard work and dedication they put in during such difficult circumstances, and the logistical challenges and obstacles they overcame

to support the completion of my A level study, will be something I never forget. I’m extremely lucky that they happened to be facilitating the programme, otherwise none of this would have been possible.

I decided to carry on with Further Maths during my gap year to complete the full A level. I took my mock papers and A level exam at home too – from the same desk as my GCSEs! A unique experience. It was interesting to see both worlds – being part of the year-group who did no exams and part of the year group who did exams under lockdown. Looking back on my journey, I realise just how lucky I am; first and foremost, to come out the other side alive and healthy, but also to have been able to turn what was a devastating, hard-fought battle into a period of growth and self-improvement. I’ve learned so much about myself these past three years and I know I am a stronger and better person for it.”

**Despite all the obstacles, you achieved an incredible 10 A\*s at GCSE and 4A\*s at A level. How are you looking forward to the future?**

“In September I will be going to study Maths with Management Studies at UCL and am obviously hoping – as everyone else is – that things go back to ‘normal’ and that we get to have a better university experience, but whether they will or not is a totally different matter. I certainly don’t envy my peers who had to do their first year of university online! I’m also hoping that schools benefit from a return to normality; my younger brother is going into Y9 at Highgate and I hope he gets to have a more regular school experience.”

**Sureyya Hilmi**



# A budding career in fundraising

Hannah Goldie (FG 2006)



## Tell us about yourself – where do you currently work, and how did you get into that?

I'm currently Head of Fundraising for the World Sailing Trust, a new global charity focusing on access to sailing and marine sustainability. As it's a new charity, I'm responsible for setting up the charity's governance, policies and programming as well as its funding profile. I started my career in the civil service as a Fast Streamer, spending most of my time at the Department for Education in a number of roles. I then moved to Social Finance, where I developed and ran innovative social programmes tackling issues such as domestic abuse, health-related unemployment, and addiction.

## What are some of your proudest achievements since graduating?

Two career highlights stand out for me: I opened two of the first Free Schools in my first year at the Department for Education, and then at Social Finance

launched Drive, a new programme working with perpetrators of domestic abuse which is now being scaled around the country. Seeing plans become reality and most importantly having impact on people's lives is the reason anyone works in this sector.

## What advice would you give someone who is looking to follow a similar career path?

The social sector is super exciting and is evolving all the time, with new roles, types of work and organisations always developing. This makes it hard to make a traditional career plan, so instead I would suggest following what you're passionate about with a focus on looking for roles and organisations which are interesting and will help you grow.

## Did your time at Highgate help you? If so, how?

Highgate showed me that school can be really fun, and that you can learn and work hard while having a great time.

The friends I made at Highgate are still some of my closest now. My teachers also pushed me just when I needed it most - sometimes some well-timed encouragement (or instruction!) makes all the difference.

## In three words, how would you describe Highgate?

Exciting, Supportive, Friendly

## What's next?

The social sector is evolving rapidly: issues previously left behind are being tackled and with new and creative solutions. Data is being used better and there is more collaboration between sectors and industries. We are also seeing more 'traditional' investment capital wake up to the need to consider environmental and social considerations (albeit slowly!), which will change the shape of funding and finance in both business and in social change.

# Striving for Sustainability in Fashion

## Charlotte Kaye (HG 2007)

**After a decade of Teaching art** in secondary schools and museums, Charlotte has launched her own enterprise, teaching sewing and textile arts. Her school is called The Garden Sewing School, and is based in Hampstead with the primary aim of making textile arts accessible. Charlotte feels passionately that sustainability and self-sufficiency can help to build confidence and independence in young people.



### What do you remember about Highgate?

I remember spending all my time in the Mills Centre with the Art and DT students. I realise now what a creative and inspiring collective we had there. I also remember being late to every lesson back up in the main building because I didn't want to leave the Art room!

### Why do you do what you do?

Teaching Art always felt like an inevitability. I had a lot of admiration and envy for my Art teachers at Highgate - it seemed like the best job in the world to be able to show off your artistic talents to a captive audience. I later realised that there was a lot more to it. Witnessing students grow in confidence and discovering their own abilities became important. Whilst working as a teacher, I wanted a creative outlet that was different to what I taught my students. I was drawn to the functionality and self-sufficiency of sewing my own clothes. I taught myself on my mum's 15-year-old sewing machine.

### Is the reason you continue different from why you started?

I knew that one day in the future I wanted a career that would amalgamate what I know and love: teaching and sewing. Circumstances aligned which brought The Garden Sewing School to fruition sooner than expected. Lockdown was a big catalyst for a global sewing renaissance due to mask-making and more time spent at home and discovering the mental health benefits of crafting. I had my son in early 2021 and I suddenly had far more motivation and far less time to waste.

### What part of the job do you most enjoy?

Finding community through sewing, both online and in person, has been the most unexpected and happy outcome to this professional venture. Setting up The Garden Sewing School has meant that I not only get to be a member of that community, but I get to contribute to its growth and see how sewing can enrich people's lives regardless of their age, background or creative ability.

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

I am proud of the risks that sewing has enabled me to take. On a small scale, I take greater risks with my fashion choices. I have more fun, and I no longer care what others think about my appearance because I'm proud of what I've made. On a larger scale, I am proud of taking the risk to start my own business and I'm excited to witness its trajectory.

### What's your best piece of advice for people who want to take up sewing?

Sometimes things must go horribly wrong before you learn how to get it right. Out of the approximate 300 garments I've sewn, about 30% were total failures and still today I continue to make terrible mistakes that even a seam ripper can't fix. But keep going, because the next one could be the best thing you've ever made!



# Eat Well, Live Well

Dr Ally Jaffee (SG 2014)



**Former Highgate pupil and newly qualified doctor**, Ally Jaffee, has had an extraordinary journey since she bade farewell to Highgate seven years ago. Earlier in 2021, she received a Diana Award – the most prestigious accolade a young person aged 9–25 years can receive for “going above and beyond in their daily life to create and sustain positive change.”

**H**er community interest company Nutritank, which she started in 2017 with fellow medical student Iain Broadley, is on a mission to get diet and nutrition on the medical curriculum. Their campaign has been recognised widely in the media, including appearances on Jamie Oliver’s Channel4 Show ‘Jamie and Jimmy’s Friday Night Feast’ and a BBC Food and Farming Award. Tessy Ojo CBE, CEO of The Diana Award, said winners of the Award were “changemakers for their generation”.

“Having a lifestyle that benefits us is so important, not just for physical health but also our mental health. I wanted to put nutrition squarely on the curriculum

so that the next generation of doctors can be equipped to prescribe ways for patients to help themselves,” Ally explains.

Ally exudes an amiable self-assurance, and a determination to use her skills and medical knowledge for positive change. As we reminisce about her time at Highgate, it seems her tenacious will was present from an early age. “I had my heart set on Highgate. My parents wanted different schools, but I was adamant at the age of 10 that Highgate was the school for me”.

She came with her two best friends, who had been together since they were four, and who remain close today. Highgate had only recently become

a co-educational school when she joined, which was one of the things that attracted her. “I loved the co-ed environment and it’s so brilliant to start it young. I’m still best friends with lots of boys from Highgate.”

“I was always really passionate about doing Medicine from a young age – even in primary school – so I made sure that at GCSE I did triple science and then when I picked my A Levels, I did that with Medicine in mind.”

When she reached sixth form, Ally became the first lower-sixth student to become Head of Med-Soc, which she describes as an amazing experience: “I felt a huge sense of pride and reward back then and a desire within that I could make a change.”

Ally recalls other rewarding aspects of her time at Highgate: "My best friend and I joined CCF (Combined Cadet Force) to challenge ourselves... essentially to toughen up!... and we went on all these expeditions outside of London, making our own tents – it was really exciting! I remember talking about it in my Bristol interview as an example of my resilience."

She loved Latin and went to Pompeii with her class. "My favourite trip by far was Y12, going to Honduras with my Biology course. I didn't go with my close friends, as it was a course trip, but the bonding, community experience was amazing. We stayed on an island and went scuba diving every day to tally up the different species underwater to help the PhD students. It was like a dream!"

Despite excelling in her GCSE's, Ally had a slight wobble when she reached sixth form. "Having got 9 A\*s, I got a bit complacent, and my grades dropped. My predicted grades were not at all what I needed for Uni". Although she doubled down and managed to achieve the three As (in Biology, Chemistry and English Literature) that she needed to study Medicine, unfortunately she didn't receive a place at Bristol, her preferred university. Ally faced the tough decision about whether to accept her backup place or wait another year and try again. "My teachers were concerned about me taking a gap year, but I was determined to reapply for Medicine and get in." She spent the next year retaking her aptitude test, enhancing her personal statement and interviewing for her shortlist Universities. She



also volunteered weekly at St John's Hospice in St John's Wood, and for an HIV charity. Having received an offer from Cardiff and saved up funds from her part-time job, she felt able to go travelling and booked a flight to Australia, where she spent four months.

"I remember rolling over one night in a hostel bed to check the time, and there were loads of missed calls from Mum, which seemed quite strange. I crept out of the room and called her, which is when she broke the exciting news that I'd got Bristol, my first choice!"

As it transpired, her self-belief was well founded, and the gap year paid off. When she started at university, "I was in a good place mentally, and I'd done lots of self-development in that year. I was so grateful to be at Bristol, and felt it was such a big privilege."

With a mum who taught Pilates, Ally's interest in healthy living was embedded in her personal values from a young age. "In my gap year I developed them even more, knowing I had to look after myself...from cooking to getting the right amount of movement and stress management. I'd done my own research and become absolutely fascinated with nutrition and food."

As she progressed through her medical course, Ally was shocked by how little training UK doctors were given about nutrition during their five years of study. "I thought I'd go to medical school and learn even more about it. But when I arrived, it was very much about the bio-medical model of medicine and how pharmaceuticals and surgery are your tools as a doctor."





She started a Nutrition in Medicine interest group at the start of her second year, which is where Ally met her co-founder Dr. Iain Broadley – a post-grad student who shared her values. “He’d been on a whole journey himself, learning how to modify his lifestyle to improve his sleep, diet, movement, stress management. He was on completely the same page as me, so we said, ‘let’s make something happen, let’s be disruptive and change the system.’”

Nutritank was created that year as a community interest company that promotes the need for greater nutrition and lifestyle medicine education within healthcare training, and empowering members of the public to improve their health.

Poor diet can lead to serious health problems such as high blood pressure and heart disease, and Ally felt that few qualified doctors were able to address this key issue.

Their extraordinary endeavour has struck a chord around the country and generated a wide following. They now work with more than 25 UK medical schools (including Bristol) and have featured in many of the UK’s leading networks and publications, and presented at international conferences. The Bristol faculty frequently consult with Ally and Iain on how to further innovate their curricula and invite them in to deliver talks to younger years.

Ally hosts live interviews on her Instagram platform [@drallyjaffee](https://www.instagram.com/drallyjaffee), which discusses topics around psychiatry, mental health, doctors’ wellbeing, food

and mood, racism and discrimination within healthcare. She is an ambassador for charity YouOkayDoc, set up by doctors to support doctors’ mental health.

“My dream is to see more nutrition and cooking programmes for NHS mental health patients. I have recently helped lead a pilot cooking programme on a London Psychiatric Intensive Care Ward, which has been one of the most rewarding experiences...the power of food was remarkable to see.”

The week we met for this interview, Ally was feeling reflective, looking back over her time at Bristol and Highgate. “I’ve just come back from Bristol yesterday, where we had the Promise Ceremony, an event where we all recite our medical oath together. It’s been a long journey. But it’s been amazing.”

“Highgate is a truly wonderful school. It was a nurturing environment, whilst successful in moulding me into a compassionate and ambitious go-getter.”

Ally’s next few years look set to be just as busy, with a rotating programme of six specialist subjects. “I want to do psychiatry long term, because I’m very passionate about mental health and would like to marry all the holistic tools within lifestyle and medicine into mental health services.”

When I ask her what advice she’d give to young people as they explore their own paths, she answers with typical positivity: “Just go for it. If you have your heart set on something, just persevere and ask for help.”

### Francesca Maguire



# Why I do what I do

## Adam Jogee (FG 2010)



**Adam Jogee is the youngest mayor** of Haringey for a generation. He was elected to Haringey Council in the Local Elections of 2014, winning his seat in the marginal ward of Hornsey, and was re-elected in 2018 and this year.

### What do you remember about Highgate?

My time at Highgate, which is longer ago than I care to acknowledge, was demanding, difficult at times but an experience that I would never change. I met and learned with people from communities different to the one I grew up in, but it is those experiences that make you better, stronger and wiser. I made great friends (shout out to Nile Portal, Eddie Carden and Roly Hunter) that I am still close to now, and so I look back fondly at my time at Highgate.

### Why do you do what you do?

I have always had a big mouth and have been very clear about what I think and what I believe. I made a decision between making the law as a politician and protecting the law as a lawyer. I took the easier option... at least I think I did! I was 22 when I was elected and that inevitably means you are seen and treated in a certain way by those who have been around a bit longer, but you learn to push through, always read every line of every paper before meetings, and work hard. I love helping people and I enjoy being out

and about in the hood, and so serving my community made sense. I kept going thanks to voters who have re-elected me, but most importantly because I still think the fight to make the world a better place goes on – and I think I have something to contribute!

### What motivates you to do what you do?

Now I am Mayor, I am constantly inspired by all the people I meet, speak to and engage with me. Every Friday morning I have the honour of leading the citizenship ceremonies for new British citizens – listening to where they are from, how they got here and what they do to contribute to our community motivates me to get enough sleep and food to hit the ground running come Monday! I have learnt the importance of treating people with respect and decency. Worthy life lessons that I was certainly taught as a child but when you see it up close, you realise that nobody plans to need assistance but when they come and seek it, they deserve the highest levels of respect and understanding. I am most proud of all the people we have managed to help

since I was elected in May 2014. Our world is becoming ever more stressful and unpredictable. Who would have thought we would be in the middle of a global pandemic today, this time last year? So despite all the challenges we face, when we can help solve a problem or address a concern, you do walk away with a smile.

### What challenges do you face in your work?

Every day is different and that you cannot predict the future. As such, you just need to focus on the job and not get distracted. I have learned that actions have consequences and so when you are entrusted with power to influence and change peoples' lives, make sure you do it in a way that brings people with you and that is fair, balanced and decent. I am very proud of my Labour values and wouldn't change them for the world, but I can recognize that Liberals and Conservatives are in this for the right reasons, even if we disagree on the remedies for our collective problems. You can't keep everyone happy all the time. In an internal party sense, with factions and groupings, you soon realise that you can't be everyone's friend. I do regret that because we are, surely, all in it to change the world and make life better for people.

### Any final words?

Few politicians get to choose when to give up or stop, as it is often decided by the voters. So, whilst I still have their confidence, I am honoured to serve. My skin is significantly thicker now than it was in 2014, and for clarity, I don't mean my waistline – which thankfully, hasn't changed that much!



# Leading a culinary revolution in Hackney!

Max Jamilly (WG 2010)



Hoxton Farms co-founders Ed Steele (left) and Max Jamilly

**When it comes to switching** to a plant-based diet, a major obstacle for many meat eaters is that vegetarian and vegan alternatives simply don't tantalise their taste buds. Hoxton Farms is working to change that for good.

**M**ax Jamilly, who has a PhD from Oxford in synthetic biology and degrees from Cambridge in biotechnology and business, says Hoxton Farms grew out of his shared love of food with co-founder Ed Steele.

"At the start of the pandemic we saw that food security was at an all-time low," says Jamilly. "At the same time, some of the technologies that have matured over the last few years offer an incredible way to solve that issue. Demand for plant-based meat is soaring, but we realised that it currently just isn't good enough. It was missing that one key ingredient: fat."

The process Hoxton Farms uses involves harmlessly extracting stem cells from livestock, then growing them using a similar process to brewing beer. The company then sells the fat to plant-based meat companies.

"We're working on doing this at scale, because that's how you change the world," says Jamilly. "The process needs to be cost-effective, and we're using mathematical modelling to find better ways to do it."

With an aim of becoming the world's biggest supplier, the consequences of their work can be game-changing. "People are hugely keen on this, because the world is eating more protein, but we're all becoming more aware of the issues with meat," Jamilly says.

Behaviours will only change, however, when they become a no-brainer. "Meat is such an important part of our culture," he adds. "We need to be able to satisfy people's appetite for meat by creating alternatives that are tasty, healthy and good for the planet."

# No challenge too far!

Harry Kleiman (SH 2014)



**Despite leaving school in 2014**, I have strong memories of Highgate and the running club. Some of my fondest memories are exploring the Heath on Wednesday afternoons with Mr Derham and Mr Creagh and, although I would often complain about the early wakeups on Saturday mornings, the annual trip to Sevenoaks for the Knole Run always ended up being an enjoyable race in the deer park.

I now enjoy working in a fast-paced political environment. After leaving Highgate and university, I did what every good graduate does and went travelling for a year. Faced with the inevitability of real life catching up with me, I returned home and became a speech writer for a Member of Parliament. However, at the time of writing I am about to start at the Embassy of Israel as adviser to the Deputy Ambassador. Highgate taught me to be curious, which has set me up well for a career in politics.

When the pandemic cancelled all races, I had nothing to train for and so stopped running. However, whilst watching Arsenal play Spurs and commenting on how close the stadiums are to each

other gave me an idea: I would run to every Premier League football Stadium in London! Foolishly, I decided not to do any specific training and simply backed my legs to carry me along. 9am one Saturday morning I set off with a Lucozade and a cereal bar, enjoying the 1.5km run to Arsenal from my house. From Arsenal to Spurs and then to West Ham seemed easy. At 60km though, I couldn't feel my legs and was delirious. My mind was completely blank, and I couldn't coherently string a sentence together or cross the road properly. Luckily, a friend was on hand to safely guide me to Chelsea from Fulham. I hadn't previously run further than a marathon, but 64km later I arrived at Chelsea FC.

Dehydration, hunger and blisters would have put many off running for a while, but I was soon planning my next challenges. Last year, I ran to every Monopoly board property dressed as the Monopoly Man in a suit, top hat, moustache and bow tie. I have also designed and run elaborate running routes in the shape of animals and have been dubbed *The Running Rembrandt* of the Strava art world. Most recently, I ran to every Championship League stadium in London - just 42.36km this time, and to every League One stadium in London - 55.49km. I guess League Two is next.

I don't necessarily have an end goal for my running, but I want to continue to plan and execute my own crazy challenges, always running in my old maroon and yellow Highgate vest.



# Kira's a Future Rose!

Kira Rothwell (GH 2019)

**Kira Rothwell (GH 2019)**, who has been on the international netball scene since she was first selected for the Roses Academy back in 2016, has recently been selected as one of 16 'Future Roses' by England Netball.

The Vitality Roses programme runs over 12 months and is made up of UK-based training camps and competitive opportunities at home and overseas, as well as in-club support for the players during the domestic seasons. Players have been selected following a rigorous process that sees all their domestic and international performances assessed by the team of England Netball selectors. Complementing the Vitality Roses programme is the Future Roses scheme, which this year has been designed with the specific objective of preparing a cohort of athletes for the 2023 Netball World Cup. The programme seeks to maximise players' potential through exposure to high level training and international match experience.

David Parsons, Performance Director at England Netball, said of the Future Roses programme: "We're keeping one eye on the future, and the enhanced programme selected from a vast array of talent that we've seen across the Vitality Netball Superleague this season. It will provide us with the opportunity to ensure we have a continuous pipeline of high-quality athletes forcing their way into the selectors' thoughts in the coming years."

We offer our congratulations to Kira and look forward to watching her career develop!



# Overcoming challenges in business

Mark Felix (HG 1992)



## Tell us about yourself – where do you currently work, and how did you get into that?

I started my career in strategy consulting - essentially helping companies face business challenges. It was a great role, and I learnt a lot about how companies operate and how to support them improve performance. From there I went to work for retailers in management and commercial roles. I spent 8 years at Sainsburys, firstly in a strategy role and then running the pricing and promotions model - in essence setting and managing all the prices and promotions for the 60,000 items they sold per year. It was a great role, blending maths with economic and game theory. I then ran Grocery Online - the online shopping arm of Sainsburys, which delivered over 200,000 food shopping orders every week to customers up and down the country. After my time at Sainsburys I went to John Lewis as the Online Director. This was a fantastic role, running a website that drove sales of £2.4bn per year which represented 42% of all John Lewis sales. The trust the John Lewis brand has with customers meant we could do some great things to improve the customer experience. I also managed 150 employees, which gave me a lot of challenging leadership experiences. After 4 years, I was approached to try something different and I'm currently the Commercial Director for MoneySupermarket.com, which is one of the leading

price comparison websites. I run all the commercial relationships for the Insurance and Energy suppliers. It's a fast moving and often challenging environment.

## What are some of your proudest achievements since graduating?

There were 3 or 4 times that I led initiatives that were more successful than I would have previously considered. A good example is that I launched a nationwide price match scheme for Sainsburys whereby we guaranteed that your shopping would be cheaper than competitors. To do this for a business that has a £26bn turnover feels pretty scary, but in the end, it was the right call. Another example was managing Black Friday for John Lewis.com. We would take c. £200m of sales during the week and it required careful planning, some bold decisions and a lot of management to ensure we could make sure the website could stand the sales impact. We had some very successful years and beat the competition in terms of sales

## What advice would you give someone who is looking to follow a similar career path?

1 - Always try and challenge yourself and keep on learning. The roles I am doing now did not exist when I was at Highgate. I would not have got them had I not done many different roles in the past  
2 - Whatever job you are doing, do it well. If you work hard and are good at your job, doors will open and you

will progress  
3 - Give back - I was lucky enough that people took a chance on me in the past, be it giving me advice or giving me the opportunity in a new role. So, I want to give this back. I've given work experience to 8 Highgate pupils in the past and they have all been great and hopefully learnt a lot from the experience  
4 - Never ever give up. I have had some pretty tough times in jobs. Never give up trying - you will always get there in the end.

## Did your time at Highgate help you? If so, how?

Highgate gave me such a breadth of opportunity - I didn't realise quite how I would use the skills and experience that I received, both academically and through the clubs, societies and activities that I took part in. From a management point of view, I look back at how teachers handled certain experiences which has helped a lot. Whilst at Highgate, I also became aware of how lucky I was - a significant amount of people couldn't attend either due to finances or academics. It reminded me that no matter how hard times are, others are probably finding it harder.

## What's next?

To continue to try and progress in my roles, whilst keeping a work-life balance that works for the family (I have a fantastic wife who works full time and 3 children, including my son at Highgate Junior School) and develop my team around me.



# Accolades in theatre Down Under!

David Crewe (MG 1956)

**David Crewe is an award-winning** songwriter, playwright and prolific librettist with international experience. He has had works performed in the UK, the Mediterranean, and Australia, and now lives in Orewa. He has both directed and produced for community theatre.



In his professional UK career, David directed professional actors and performers in shows, as well as organising and directing major national events and scripting and directing corporate videos.

Moving to Australia in 2010 he won the Australian National ABC Radio competition 'Your Town, Your Song' for his song about the town of Maleny, among over 500 entries nationwide.

In 2012 he was commissioned by the Queensland town of Buderim to write the 'Buderim Cantata' performed by a mass choir and orchestra in November 2012 to celebrate the 150th year of

the founding of the town. The original music to David's libretto was composed by Paul Coppins, formerly MD of the Melbourne Philharmonic.

In 2014 he was commissioned by the Queensland Government to write and direct 'Anzac Dawn' a musical drama to commemorate the Gallipoli landings in 1915. David directed this three-day major open-air spectacle with a cast of more than 200 in April 2015. Again, the original music score was composed by Paul Coppins.

In Australia he wrote the scripts, produced and directed six pantomimes and other works for community theatre.

He produced and directed three one-act play festivals and the David Williamson play 'Let the Sunshine' which toured.

Since moving to Kerikeri in New Zealand in 2016, as Artistic Director of the Stage Door Theatre Company, David has directed three of his original works 'Billy Goes to War,' 'The Trial of Dr Millicent Malville, and 'Robin Hood and the Babes in the Wood'. He recently directed 'Shrek the Musical', 'Calendar Girls' and 'Sleeping Beauty' at the Turner Centre.

# Giving Day



**In February, over £250,000 was raised** throughout our Giving Day, Highgate's fundraising campaign to provide bursary places in the Junior School and offer extra resources such as wellbeing support for LAE Tottenham students.

Parents, OCs, friends, staff, pupils and generous match donors rallied together throughout the mammoth 36-hour fundraising event. The pupil challenges were one of the highlights: raffles, uniform sales and bake sales, foodbank donations, musical performances, and feats of sporting prowess all took place. These successfully completed challenges unlocked £30,522 of challenge funding. Senior School pupils more than doubled their SpEx points targets (made up from cycling, running, hockey, swimming and a host of other sporting events), whilst pupil bands and singers managed 13 hours of busking in Central Hall.

Alongside the many herculean efforts on spin bikes and rowing machines, a committed band of runners and cyclists took to the roads and trails in pursuit of the Giving Day staff endurance challenge: to complete 2022km between 1-9 February. Head Adam Pettitt led the way with a 35km run

comprising of 50 laps of Senior Field! Mr Pullan wasn't far behind, running 30km across St Albans, whilst Mr Creagh managed a 25km run crossing through 4 London boroughs via the Capital Ring. Mr Agyei-Owusu completed the Watford half-marathon in a new personal best time, and Mr Brunskill rode 100km across Hertfordshire. He was then joined by Mr Noyce for another 50km of Regents Park laps before school. Mr Morrow, Mr Blackshaw and Mrs Pettitt added more impressive distance on their bikes, riding 60km, 40km and 30km respectively. All were delighted to contribute to the completion of the challenge!



# Top marks received in Inspection Reports in 2022



Y13 students at LAET receive their results in August 2021

## 'Outstanding' OFSTED for LAET!

Congratulations to London Academy of Excellence, Tottenham which has been graded 'outstanding' in all areas in the School's first ever OFSTED inspection. The judgements for each area: the quality of education; behaviour and attitudes; personal development; leadership and management were each rated outstanding, the highest grade possible.

The report states that learners are "inspired by their studies", with the School described as having "a studious environment where they are encouraged and challenged to achieve their best academically, and to contribute to the local community." As well as the "excellent progress" made academically, the report notes the "ambitious and challenging curriculum" which leads to students learning to "conduct themselves with integrity and grow

in their understanding of the diverse communities that they live in".

Also noted is the impact of the ambitious Chrysalis East programme, funded by Rokos Capital Management, and LAE Tottenham's partnership work with local primary and secondary schools. The report praises the work for "promoting and improving educational standards in the local area," a core part of LAE Tottenham's wider mission.

Headteacher Jan Balon commented "we are delighted that Ofsted has recognised that Tottenham has become synonymous with outstanding education. Our students and the wider community are ambitious, passionate and talented, and we are proud to be able to offer the opportunities this community deserves."

## Highgate rated 'Excellent' by ISI

The Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) rated the quality of education provided at Highgate School as

'excellent' in the Regulatory Compliance and Educational Quality Inspection conducted in December 2021.

The Inspection Report found that the School is compliant in all aspects of the School Standards and rated as 'excellent' (the highest standard) the key outcomes for educational quality.

The inspection had an additional focus on safeguarding, welfare and the teaching of PSHEE and RSE at the behest of the Department of Education, which is also covered in the report.

The Head, Adam Pettitt commented "Just as we don't believe in teaching towards exams, we don't do our work with inspection grades in mind, but this report, with its snapshot assessment of our pupils' achievements and development, does bring it home to all of us what is made possible when people work as hard, as thoughtfully, as responsively and as conscientiously as we do. I am very grateful to everyone in every walk of Highgate life!"

# Highgate Young Musician of the Year



**After an absence of three years**, the Highgate Young Musician of the Year Competition returned with an exhilarating final in March at St Michael's Church, Highgate. Guest adjudicator, professional cellist Gabriella Swallow, enthused about the "sensational performances from everyone."

**T**he Highgate Young Musician of the Year competition is the pinnacle event in the School's music calendar. It is designed to encourage the skills of high-level performance and support the pupils with classes in performance practice, stagecraft and combating stage-fright.

This year there were over 50 entrants from the Senior School at Grade 6 and above. Competitors in the Instrumental Competition presented performances on strings, woodwind, brass, keyboard and percussion. The Vocal Competition

took the format of a masterclass with an external adjudicator in the three categories of Art Song/Classical, Musical Theatre and Pop/Jazz.

Mr King, Head of Woodwind and Percussion, who coordinated the event, concluded: *"The standard was extraordinarily high this year and all 50 musicians should be very proud of their achievements. I cannot thank them enough for sharing their talents and raising the roof of St Michael's Church with such glorious music-making."*



# Cross-Country Success for Highgate's Girls!



Cross-country runners show off the Knole Run trophy

**Three cheers for our cross-country girls** and their run of successes in the last year! Firstly, the Year 9 and 10 girls came second in the English Schools cross-country Cup National Final which took place in Newquay, Cornwall.

**T**hen, shortly after the Christmas holiday, the team won Sevenoaks School's *Knole Run*, arguably the most prestigious cross-country race in the school calendar.

Mr James Morrow, who oversees cross-country in the Senior School, expressed his delight: *"Our exceptional girls' school cross-country team has had an outstanding season's running. From finishing second in the English Schools national cross-country final to winning the Knole Run, this will be a year to go down in the annals of Highgate School sport. The credit of course lies with the girls for their extraordinary talent and their commitment; they should be enormously proud of what they have achieved. With*

*many of them still only in Years 9 and 10, the best may well be yet to come!"*

Ms Pride, Director of SpEx, would like to give a special mention to Mia Manttan in Year 13 who competed for the School on several occasions this season, including at the Knole Run, and will be leaving Highgate in July. She says *"Mia is very talented and utterly committed to her running. She has represented the School at countless fixtures during her time at Highgate, highlights of which include being part of a Knole Run medal-winning team for 6 years in a row!"* Mia says her running *"has just been a lot of fun!"* and that she will continue with it for fitness at least.



The silver medal-winning team at the English Schools Cup Final with Mr Morrow

# New Pre-Prep and Junior School Display



**A new display** about the Pre-Prep and Junior School has been unveiled in the School Museum this term.

**I**t charts the history from 1889 when Highgate Junior School, then called 'Cholmeley House', opened its doors to pupils at the start of the Lent term. The brainchild of Headmaster Reverend Charles McDowall (1874-93), he believed that teaching should be adapted to the age of the pupils and that juniors and seniors needed separate spaces in which to learn. Just over a hundred years later, in September 1993, it was joined by Highgate Pre-Preparatory School who welcomed pupils aged 4 to 7.

To see the new exhibition and arrange a private tour of the Museum or the School, please contact [archives@highgateschool.org.uk](mailto:archives@highgateschool.org.uk) or 020 8347 4421.



# Vale for Melissa Neckar

**For several generations of Year 7 Latin pupils**, the verb *neco* ('I kill', 1<sup>st</sup> conjugation) has a particular and memorable significance: it has always been Miss Neckar's least favourite word in the Latin language for its resemblance to her name.

**T**here are, however, some telling correspondences. Melissa has been a killer teacher here at Highgate since she joined the department in 2016. With an assassin's precision she has guided her classes through Herodotus and Sophocles, Tacitus and Catullus, ruthlessly culling woolly prose and woolly thinking from their criticism, and frighteningly sharp has been her green pen. Forbidding as this might sound, Melissa is a teacher pupils would kill to be taught by as they uniformly recognise that these exacting standards spring from a very real and deeply felt love for ancient literature; and since this has always been communicated with such enthusiasm and delight in their successes, they have had no option but to feel the same way. Indeed, surely few teachers could have persuaded a devoted group of 6th formers to spend at least one precious break time per week, come what may, solving a Latin crossword ('O Tempora!') while



generally putting the world to rights; here, regularly spilling from Room 19, could be heard strong opinions and vigorous debate on the subjunctive, Taylor Swift and Strictly Come Dancing. This was entirely typical of the Neckar approach: for her pupils it has always been made clear that the ancient world is far from remote, but rather a vividly immediate part of the cultural landscape in which they can (and really should) be active participants. She will be sorely missed in the department, not least for her regular and forensic reviews of what's worth seeing at the cinema or the theatre (a hugely valuable filter), but most of all for her wit, her warmth and her alarmingly quick way with a pun. We wish her well in her move to Oxford, where I confidently predict that she will write a series of bestselling crime novels and make a killing. *vale*, Melissa!

**Henry Shepherd**

# Vale for Mark James



Head of Highgate Junior School Mark James

**In Highgate's School Museum,** photographs of significant players in the School's history greet willing and not-so-willing visitors alike; it's intriguing to see how people and happenings one remembers are being woven into that particular tapestry.

**F**or the most part, studio portraits of senior leaders give off a sense of a life's work nearing its completion, of wise eyes contemplating a job well done or done with one's very best efforts. The photograph of Mark James, by contrast, suggests a barely suppressed giggle which, seconds later, will explode in a guffaw of laughter, and a photographer who struggled to keep the subject of the photo seated long enough to take a shot.

Laughter is the audio hallmark of Mark James's twenty years as Principal of the Junior School. Parents dropping off their children knew they were getting close to the school gate because they heard the signature laughter, as unforced and genuine as it was reliable and audible, every morning; pupils could count on it during their frequent encounters with a Principal who zig-zagged through corridors, natter and chatter on his lips while his watchful eyes clocked levels





of effervescent enthusiasm of the very young; visitors relaxed as laughter told them that Mark would always want to find connection and commonality with every family.

Mark James joined Highgate in 2002 from King's College School, Wimbledon, where he had been deputy head in its junior school. Tasked with seeing through two major changes – admitting girls to the Junior School in 2004 and re-structuring the Junior School from an age 7-13 to an age 7-11 school by 2008 – Mark's to-do list was a long one and, of course, from 2006 included inducting a new Head into the traditions and realities of North London schools. Mark immediately found his operational niche in carving out a market for Highgate as the place to send both girls and boys: professionalising open days, building relations with feeder schools, keeping a weather eye on registrations, month by month, week by week, and employing an industrial level of one-to-one communication with families keen to explore, but nervous about

committing to, the new co-educational kid on the block. Numbers increased and confidence grew to the extent that the first 11+ girls were admitted to Year 7, based in the Junior School, in 2006. Mark's avowed enjoyment of the nail-bitingly competitive process made him a natural leader of admissions across both Junior and Senior Schools, overseeing the expansion of Year 7 to allow numbers of girls and boys to be equal by 2014, several years ahead of predictions.

Mark's early days inevitably involved change-management and ensuring that those caught up in change were not disadvantaged: boys in Year 7 or 8 and their families who had chosen something different, for example, or teachers whose experience and expertise lay in specialist subject teaching in these years. With an eye to the changes to come, Senior School teachers started to take on teaching in Years 7 and 8 but had to combine this with teaching on the hill-top site; management structures had to evolve

sharply and quickly to deal with a transition. Mark's grasp of junior and senior school strengths and inflexibilities and his focus on solutions before problems made him the ideal broker. Striking up an energetic and creative partnership with a senior school colleague, Robert Wilne, appointed to lead the transition of and oversee the pastoral and educational needs of Year 7 and 8 pupils, Mark oxygenated the positives such a transition throws up and, discreetly, undogmatically but determinedly, articulated the problems and charted practical routes through: running a split site – Field House and Cholmeley – could lead to the smaller, satellite building, which housed Years 3 and 4, feeling like a less-loved younger sibling; Mark alternated staff meetings between the two, bringing the two teams together. Mark became a full member of the Senior School's 'Senior Team', thus steering both schools clear of many a mishap and promoting an understanding of both pedagogical projects.



It was clear that a 1930s building for a two-form entry day-and-boarding school would be feeling its age seventy years on. When Governors agreed that opportunity and needs justified a completely new building, Mark carried understandable concern from families that a temporary facility would be a lesser experience. In fact, the temporary school was a real hit – so much easier to find one’s way around! – and colleagues’ and pupils’ input into the new building so carefully channelled that the excitement at the new school withstood the disappointment of the delayed opening. The openness of the building and its playfulness – Platypus steps, hidden frogs and a pangolin – reflect Mark’s hard-wired instinct that a happy school needs children to be childlike and playful, however serious and thoughtful the teaching that they receive.

With these transitions effected and a new school built, many might have thought Mark would be ready for other challenges; there was no shortage of people knocking on his door. However, Mark’s omnidirectional

energy found new objects, once external challenges were met: how to make a 7-11 junior school, freed of 11+ strictures and structures, competitively selective by entry, a happy, energising place to be a child?

Mark will be the first to recognise that his expertise in teaching sat predominantly with older pupils, but his nose for what makes a good lesson and good teaching is unerring, and he saw the opportunity to make those who deliver both inform the Junior School pedagogy. Introducing new middle-management roles, synching the team-working tempo of committed colleagues and expanding his leadership team, Mark spread and shared the responsibility for teaching and learning, prioritising initiatives which enhanced pupils’ engagement and experience.

Among these different and uniquely different voices, the contribution of Mark’s wife, Jane, who is also retiring, is significant: her quietly expressed, compassionate wisdom and deft, responsive expertise as form teacher and professional tutor in the Junior School acted as a model for teachers and for parents.





While three younger Pettitts were entrusted to Mark, two – very contrasting characters – children hit the double-James-jackpot and were taught by Jane. Scrupulous, flexible, insightful and unintrusively caring, Jane saw endless opportunity and helped resolve problems, normalising parental anxiety and creating optimism at every turn. Discretion being Jane's middle name, historians will have to speculate to attribute responsibility for the James's dual impact on the Junior School but most close to either will determine, admire and be grateful for a strong, mutual interdependence on which consistently productive, dynamic and successful leadership must have relied.

Mark's work tempo – an empty desk, an empty in-tray, meetings starting as early as possible and before the start time if possible – made him a byword for efficiency. His public-speaking panache – humour, of course, but poise and carefully controlled emotion when tragic circumstances required, too – assured him willing audiences, young and old. His wily judgement

about people and what works (and willingness to stake that judgement on opportunity) meant he has been the person to be at, or close to, the helm at moments of risk or chance. Those adult traits, honed over two decades of lively, excited work, have made him a leader, a colleague, a friend and a character we will miss. But pupils will also miss the inner child in Mark who always squeezes their way out and makes those instant, sugar-burst connections; and parents will miss the fellow parent who entrusted his own lovely children to a school in the throes of motion and change.

By the time he reads this, Mark will, I suspect, have packed his boxes and planned his term-time holidays in preparation for a very happy, well-planned and richly deserved retirement. Whatever photographs we may keep for posterity, my images of Mark will be those that moved, and moved me.

**Adam Pettitt**

# Vale for Clare Rodgers



**It seems a long time ago** that Clare put on her poshest of posh accents as stadium announcer at *The Cholmeley Shield* athletics event. Clare came to Highgate in September 2004 and successfully oversaw the start of coeducational sport at Highgate, devising a girls' sport curriculum and organising the School's first ever netball match.

**I**n 2005, Clare first choreographed *The Boyfriend* and then *Oklahoma* with the music department for sixth form pupils as she tested the water with a big production. In 2006, the first ever dance show was performed in Caenwood Hall under Clare's leadership and this became a popular annual event which moved to the Mallinson Sport Centre as it grew in size and momentum.

As Clare developed both Gym and Dance, we saw the introduction of coeducational musicals such as *West Side Story*, *South Pacific*, *Guys and Dolls* and, most recently in 2022, *Legally Blonde* at the Arts Depot. At the same time, Clare choreographed the end-of-year celebrations at The Roundhouse as well as introducing a series of artists in residence workshops with Matthew Bourne, Ballet Rambert and Akram Khan all being invited to Highgate to work with aspiring pupils.

Clare set up ballet, gymnastics and musical theatre courses as well as taking the first ever dance tours to New York and then to Italy. Alongside these initiatives was an Outreach Programme through the Haringey Dance Festival impacting 15 local schools and implementing the Silver and Gold Trinity Laban Arts Awards. Clare also set up the Annual Area Gymnastics Competition for over 100 local gymnasts. The list goes on: numerous Junior School plays,

a whole host of departmental plays, the setting up of an OC Arts evening and workshops at LAE Tottenham to name but a few. Clare managed to combine this extraordinary volume of cocurricular Dance and Gym whilst overseeing sport at the Junior School for 14 years.

If all of the above is a breathless list of extraordinary achievements, it aptly reflects the huge impact and energy Clare has demonstrated with regard to the Creative Arts at Highgate School. That said, I do question her judgement after she thought it would be a good idea for Mr Tapp, Mr Evans and Mr Humphrey to teach street dance to Year 9 and Year 10. We weren't invited back the following year after Clare realised all we had in our repertoire was a shimmy and the funky chicken!

More recently, Clare and members of the SpEx department took part in the Moonlight Marathon, raising money for Cancer Research. Her time of 9 hr 40 was remarkable, especially as she had to rehydrate every 3 miles in the nearest hostelry or bistro bar.

Clare, you will be sorely missed as a dear friend and valued colleague to many. You have changed the lives of so many young people with your energy and dynamism. We wish you well as you head up the Creative Arts at Ashford Prep.

**Alistair Tapp**



# Vale for Elizabeth Worthen



**Lizzy joined Highgate in 2014**, having taught an impressive interview lesson on a very niche Sixth Form history topic (the Bourbon restoration) with only a few days' notice: quite a tall order, she has pointed out from time to time, that we have not required any subsequent applicant to do!

Unsurprisingly, she swiftly established her reputation as an outstanding teacher of History who will, without fail, go the extra mile for each of her pupils to ensure they achieve their very best. Above all, she embodied the History Department's commitment to modelling what scholarliness looks like to her pupils and to her colleagues: in short order she became the go-to figure for finding the right resource to push Sixth Formers studying the French Revolution, and when A Levels were reformed a few years later, she designed an entirely new scheme of work for pupils in Route 1, on *King Alfred, the Vikings, and the making of England*. In fact, her scholarship is in such demand that History has negotiated annually with Classics over how much Latin she is allowed to teach! Thank goodness her French and her Greek have remained closely-guarded secrets...

Lizzy's impact on how and what we teach in History, across the year groups, has been profound. Her recent oversight of major improvements to our schemes of work in Key Stage 3 is a case in point: determined to embed diversity and inclusion across our curriculum, she chaired a working group to review our

provision, identify potential changes, as well as commissioning and creating superb new resources. The results will be with us for a long time to come, and include a totally reframed historical enquiry into *Why was the medieval Islamic world so significant?* for our pupils in Year 7 and a *What was the European Renaissance?* enquiry in Year 8.

Her energy outside of the classroom has been no less remarkable, encompassing extensive mentoring of Sixth Form historians applying to read history at university, as well as overseeing their preparation for any admissions tests, single-handedly transforming Highgate's EPQ programme, running the Head's Prize, writing school UCAS references every summer, and acting as Assistant to the Head of Sixth Form (Academic). And no testimonial to Lizzy's impact on Highgate would be complete without mentioning her extraordinary organisation of the annual Year 9 visit to the First World War battlefields of northern France. Here again, her impact on life at Highgate is going to be with us for many years, as we bring the educational visit 'in house' for 2023: it is thanks to countless hours of work on her part that her former Highgate

colleagues anticipate an outstanding visit with each of us acting as 'site experts' ready to engage the pupils on a meticulously planned walking tour that she trialled in person and will undoubtedly be a triumph.

This summer Lizzy will be getting married to Andrew, and we wish them many happy years together. And of course, we send her every good wish for her move to Abingdon School, where she will be taking up a post in the History Department. Her Highgate colleagues, meanwhile, will miss so much about her, not least her weekly desk-cleaning ritual, which involved her moving heaps of papers – which we could only assume time had resolved – straight into the recycling bin! But mostly it will be her good company that we miss: her kindness and calmness, her warmth and generosity, and her clarity of thought and good humour. It is hard for us to imagine life in the History Department without her: she is a remarkable teacher and I am not alone in counting myself very lucky to have had the pleasure of working with her.

**Benjamin Dabby**

## Diamond Wedding

**BOA – MACKECHNIE:** On 29 July 1961, **Roger Boa** (NG 1945) and Rosemary MacKechnie, at Holy Trinity Church, Lyonsdown, New Barnet. They celebrated their Diamond Anniversary quietly under Covid conditions with their two children and three grandchildren.

## Golden Wedding

**HAMMERSON – JACOBSON.** On May 14, 1972, **Michael Hammerson** (WG 1956) and Susan Jacobson, at Harrogate, Yorkshire. The anniversary was celebrated in their favourite overseas city, Venice.

## Deaths

**HEWS (1938).** In August 2021, **Michael Harold Grant Hews**, aged 96.

**BRETNALL (HG 1939).** On October 31, 2021, **Philip John Brentnall**, aged 96, peacefully, in Advent Care, Nunawading, Melbourne, Australia. He went to Highgate in 1939 and was evacuated to Westward Ho!, leaving aged 17 to join the Merchant Navy in 1942. He did not like academic schoolwork, so he avoided the School Certificate examinations. He survived Atlantic crossings, the North African landings (November 1942), the invasion of Sicily (July 1943 where his ship was in Augusta harbour waiting to enter Catania, was dive bombed and sunk, and he was wounded by shrapnel), and later the Normandy landings in 1944. His studies later succeeded in passing the examinations for the Merchant Navy "Tickets" for Second Officer, Mate's, and finally the Master's Certificate. This involved memorising the Articles for Navigation at Sea – a massive task. He married Sally Hudson in Cape Town in 1951 – her family had lived in North Road, Highgate, the garden backed onto the Brentnalls' in Talbot Road and the families became friends - and in 1952 they emigrated to Melbourne, where he qualified as a Chartered Accountant. His brother Edward (HS 1941 – now aged 94) and family migrated in 1965. Their parents emigrated in 1966, and the youngest brother Andrew (1944 – now aged 92) followed in 2001. Sally died in 2018. There was no funeral by his wish as he donated his body to the University of Melbourne. He leaves three children, Sam, Elizabeth and Rebecca, eight grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

**BRESLAW (MG 1947).** **Jeffrey Breslaw** was passionate about all things Highgate. It's not an exaggeration to say that he dedicated many parts of his life to the Institution. Jeffrey, along with his brother Martin, attended Highgate School and excelled in football, boxing, and athletics. He was a keen member of the CCF and carried out his National Service in Germany after leaving school. On his return, Jeffrey attended Chelsea College and studied to be a pharmacist. During

his time there he represented the University of London in boxing and was 1959 Champion of the UK in the Light Middle Weight Division. Jeffrey's success in boxing kept him in good stead to be a success in business with the opening of his famous chemist shop on Edgware Road, London where he worked for almost 35 years. During this time, Jeffrey became a mentor to many OCs through his work with the OC Business Section. He became President of the OC Society forging a close relationship with the late Theodore Mallinson. Jeffrey travelled the world with his beloved wife Sheila, meeting up with many OCs at organised dinners. He gave generously to the School and sent all three of his sons there. Later in life he enjoyed visits to revamped buildings and remained in contact with schoolmasters and OCs. Jeffrey was a passionate man. His charity Caring 4 Carers received awards from the Prince's Trust. He dedicated his life to giving to others. He had a gentle smile that attracted others to him, and he touched many during his life, including his good friend Andrew Hochhauser. Sheila sadly died suddenly in 2018, and during his last year Jeffrey suffered from dementia. However, he remained stoic and calm, and kept his irrepressible sense of humour and mischief. Jeffrey will be missed by his two brothers, Andrew and Martin, his two sons Richard and James, his daughter-in-law, and all of his grandchildren.



**KEOWN (1939).** In November 2020, **Robert Anthony Gordon Keown**, aged 94. He was at Westward Ho! and recalled Theodore Mallinson as his teacher there. His father, Major Robert Keown (OC 1905) died at Dunkirk in 1940, and the school was kind and generous in allowing him to stay. He left in July 1943 and served as a Lieutenant in The Buffs during the War, and later worked in Advertising and Marketing. (*Information from his son Philip Keown, TL 1971*).

**POWNE (1941).** On February 26, 2020, **John Michael Ferrier Powne**, aged 92. Born in Bushey, Herts., Michael was one of three Powne boys who attended Highgate during the 1930s and 1940s - his older brother Peter and younger brother Jeremy. Following two years' National Service with the Royal Signals at Catterick in North Yorkshire, Michael studied at Durham University for a BA in English and Music. An able pianist, organist, singer and conductor, he was a stalwart of student musical life, meeting his future wife Lorna Sheehan-Dare through a shared love of choral singing. After gaining teaching qualifications in Durham from the College of the Venerable Bede and St Hild's College respectively and marrying in 1952, Michael and Lorna briefly taught in secondary schools in England before making the adventurous decision to take overseas postings with





the British Council. Initially applying for jobs in Istanbul, they were instead offered posts in Ethiopia. Michael taught English at the General Wingate School in Addis Ababa for six years from 1954, and then for four years at Makerere College in Kampala, Uganda. During this decade he completed a dissertation on Ethiopian music for an MA from Durham University which was subsequently published by Oxford University Press in 1968 as the pioneering monograph *Ethiopian music: an introduction*.

They returned to the UK in 1964 to secure good schooling for their three children. They settled in Bath, a city with a remarkable architectural environment and vibrant cultural life which Michael loved greatly and where they remained for the rest of their lives. Moving into adult education at Bath Technical College where he lectured, *inter alia*, in English literature and music appreciation, Michael studied part-time for an M.Ed at Bristol University in the 1970s and retired from his role as Head of the Department of General Studies in 1987. Michael was an inspiring teacher with a talent for opening his pupils' minds. Many of his students and their families became personal friends, remaining in contact for decades. He was a perceptive, generous-hearted, well-read and knowledgeable man, a great conversationalist with wide-ranging interests, a lively sense of humour and engaging smile, and the ability to put people from any background at ease. He was, in many respects, a personification of the liberal studies he espoused and taught. An active member of the Bath community in retirement, he was an eloquent campaigner for locally important issues such as the survival of allotments and establishment of a Millennium Green which continues to flourish two decades on, or planning approval for the uncompromisingly contemporary extension to the Holburne Museum in Bath where he volunteered for many years. He was a selfless and much-loved family man, held in great affection and high regard by a wide circle of friends and acquaintances from all over the world. His wife of 67 years survived him by only 7 weeks. He leaves a son, Richard, two daughters Clare and Celia, three grandchildren Alexander, Victoria and Charlotte, and a great grand-daughter Grace. (*Obituary by Clare Powne*)

**COOPER (CH 1942).** On November 29, 2021, **Anthony ("Tony") Donald Cooper**, aged 91.

**CLIFFORD (TL 1943).** On March 22, 2022, **Ian Edwin Hudson Clifford**, aged 90. He was Head of School 1949-50. He did his National Service in the Royal Artillery and qualified as a parachute soldier. He was sent to Korea on a troop ship, via Aden, as part of the United Nations force, to fight in the 1950-3 war, and received an award for bravery for saving one of his men after a mortar had exploded nearby. He completed his National Service as Captain and started his career with the Yorkshire Insurance Company's Barnet office. Ian married Liz; they had four daughters, Jane, Fiona, Catherine and Emma. He was a keen sportsman and played cricket for Totteridge, North London, but his love was for Rugby Union, and he joined Barnet Rugby Club, becoming Captain of the Harts xv and then the Stags xv, from 1960 to 1968. When they moved from Barnet to Redbourn, Ian became a member of Harpenden Common Golf Club. The family then moved

to Flitton, Bedfordshire and eventually to Brandsby, Yorkshire. Ian passed away peacefully on 20th March at Vida Court Nursing Care Home, Harrogate; he will be sadly missed by his family and many friends. [*Alastair Milne (1945)*].

**MOORE (CH 1943).** On December 26, 2021, **Michael John Moore**, aged 90, after a short illness.

**MORTON (1943).** On September 12, 2020, **Reginald "Patrick" Morton**, aged 90, in Russets care home near Weston-super-Mare. Born in 1930 in North London, his early life was spent in Totteridge Priory with his sister Josephine and brother John, various servants and dogs and his Ulster granny. He attended Mill Hill school, whence he was evacuated to Cumberland at the beginning of the war, and then Highgate from 1943 to 1949. He read economics at Cambridge and indulged in much dancing and football. In his 20s he worked for the family furniture firm but found time for touring the continent, including some months on a farm in Denmark. At the turn of the 1960s he married Valerie, taking on stepdaughter Vivienne, and they were soon joined by son Stephen and daughter Philippa. After moving from Kent to Bracknell he was employed as a computer systems analyst at ICL, where he was involved in the Aldermaston project and instrumental in the development of early operating systems such as GEORGE. In the mid-1970s he decided to take time out from the daily grind to spend more time with his family and devote more effort to his genealogical research, but the party had to end and in about 1978 he took on work as computer support staff at Kingston-upon-Thames polytechnic. In the 1980s he retired and moved to Bristol where he found the time for holidays with like-minded epicures, tennis and badminton. Meanwhile much-loved grandson Flint appeared in 1999. From 2000 until his death, he lived in Weston-super-Mare surrounded by books where he spent many happy times with his late-life love Marie-Christine. Patrick was an intelligent independent man, never one to take the easy course or follow fashionable opinion, but his intellect was complemented by his pervasive sense of humour and a congenial capacity for silliness. He was also deeply and defensively sensitive, bearing a fierce loyalty to his family and friends and a love which found its outlet in many acts of understated generosity.

**WELBANK (WG 1944).** In the obituary for **Michael Welbank** published in the 2021 edition, it was stated that he was an Alderman of the City of London. He was in fact a Common Councilman and Chief Commoner, as well as being Chairman of several important Committees of the Common Council of the City of London.

**BIRD (EG 1945).** On June 20, 2021, **Lawney Nelson Bird**, aged 89, peacefully at home following a period of ill-health. Born in London in 1932, Lawney was a keen sportsman and was wicketkeeper for the first X1 cricket team. On leaving, he enrolled in an RSA Diploma course in Journalism at Marlborough Gate College in London. The course included stenography which would prove decisive in him being deployed to Fontainebleau near Paris for his National Service in the Army in 1950, serving under a detachment of General Eisenhower

as a stenographer. On returning to London in 1952 he embarked on a UK-wide sales and marketing role with Scribbans Kemp biscuits in Cricklewood, moving in 1963 to become Sales and Marketing manager for Parkinson's biscuits, which was almost immediately taken over by Fox's Biscuits, where he progressed to the Senior Management team and retired in 1989. During this time, the company landed a contract with General Mills in the U.S. to manufacture and distribute chewy cereal bars across Europe and it was his role as Commercial Manager to sell the products to companies in Germany, France and Scandinavia; these are still available on supermarket shelves today. Lawney was a keen yachtsman and built his own dinghy, which he sailed in various regattas during the 1970s and 1980s with his three children. He was also a painting enthusiast and produced many oil, watercolour and pencil compositions. One of his favourite drawings was of Highgate school, for which he had always maintained a strong connection, still proudly displayed in the sitting room. Whilst at school he and his lifelong friend Robert Haxforth (1944) learnt to play boogie woogie music on the piano in the hall, his passion for which continued throughout his life. He is survived by his wife Una and children Jeremy and Melanie.

**MANOUSSO (NG 1946).** In April 2022, **Paul Manoussou**, aged 91. Born in Athens in 1930, he studied architecture at The Architectural Association School of Architecture in London, where he was a student of James Stirling and later a friend, and then studied painting at The British School of Art and Archaeology in Rome. From 1958-1972 he ran a private architectural practice in London, Paul Manoussou Associates, during which time he won many awards. He moved to New York in 1972 and studied for two years at The New York School of Painting, Drawing and Sculpture. He travelled and painted extensively in Greece, North Africa and India. Primarily known for his fluid paintings in gouache on paper, he had numerous shows in London. He is on a list of Notable Cholmeleians.

**MORGAN (TL 1947).** On January 19th, 2022, **Rev. John William Miller Morgan**, aged 87, at home with his wife Marjorie and three children with him. John was Ordained a Priest in the Church of England and served in St Albans as a Curate, then Luton, Mangotsfield and finally in Stanton St Quintin Nr Chippenham in Wiltshire. He had 22 years of retirement but never stopped his work for the Lord, supporting and preaching in the 8 churches of the Benefice. He was a much-loved Family Man, Priest and Friend to all who met him.

**WALBEY (EG 1948).** On October 27th, 2021, **Derek Arthur Walbey**, aged 85. Derek's younger brother Geoffrey also went to Highgate school; sadly he died in 1979, aged 35. Derek attended Highgate during the war, as a weekly boarder. He was evacuated with the school to Westward Ho! while at Ingleholme. Derek enjoyed school life, especially sports, where he won school colours in football and cricket and played for his boarding house. He also joined the CCF. He left school in 1952 to join Midland Bank, starting as a Clerk in Finchley central. In 1954, he was called up for National Service,



in the Royal Army Service Corp as a Driver Clerk. He saw action in Egypt, during the Suez Canal crisis, then Cyprus during the EOKA uprising, and was Corporal by the time he completed his service. Part of Derek's varied banking career included the launch of the Access credit card company in 1972, where he secured a managerial role with the Midland Bank side of the project. The family moved to Southend-on-Sea and Derek took early retirement in 1987, following the merger with HSBC, after 35 years; he was then at the bank's London head office. He then took employment at a local Southend Insurance company, finally retiring in 2000. He married Susan in 1969, and enjoyed his retirement in Thorpe Bay with wife Susan, their two sons and four grandchildren, all of whom survive him. He was an avid Arsenal supporter and regularly attended matches at Highbury during both his time at Highgate and well into retirement. Derek was a sociable and very likeable character, he loved cycling, joined the local gym, enjoyed walking along the seafront chatting with people, and continued to enjoy life up to his death.

**WILLIAMS (NG 1950).** On October 3, 2021, **David John Williams**, aged 83, after a short illness, at home peacefully. Tributes quickly poured in about his contribution to A&E medicine in the UK and Europe. David was an Assistant GP when an opportunity arose to join the first group of 32 Consultants in A&E in the UK. From there he led an illustrious career in emergency medicine, becoming Clinical Director of the Emergency Department at St Thomas' Hospital, a consultant at three London teaching hospitals and a fellow of five medical Royal Colleges. Having held leading positions in many other emergency medicine organisations, and having been a primary instigator of emergency medicine, he leaves a tremendous legacy for the next generation of emergency medicine specialists. David is survived by his wife Ann. A full obituary appeared in the Times for 19th January 2022.

**ACTON (WG 1950).** On August 20th, 2021, **Tim Acton**, aged 83. A keen sportsman, he captained the school's tennis team in 1955 and was a formidable fullback in a successful football first XI in 1954 and 1955. On leaving school Tim completed his National Service in the Royal Marines and then, age 21, made the life changing decision to emigrate to Australia as a "ten-pound Pom". Joining Trans Australia Airlines (TAA) in 1960 he began a successful career in the airline industry, where he spent the next forty-one years in marketing and management positions, first with TAA and then in 1976 joining Cathay Pacific as their Manager for Victoria and Tasmania. During his career Tim had postings in Papua New Guinea, Hong Kong and Singapore before making Melbourne his long-term home. Tim retired in 2000 but remained active both as a public speaker and as a presenter of a travel show on local community radio in Melbourne; he was also a keen Rotarian. Throughout his life Tim maintained a strong affection for Highgate School and in 2006 became OC





co-ordinator for Victoria, a role which he carried out with great enthusiasm, organising regular gatherings of the local OCs until ill-health forced him to step down during 2021. Above all Tim was a great raconteur with a lively sense of humour and a worldwide set of friends. These attributes came together in the final years of his life in the form of "Tim's Daily Ticklers". At the start of the COVID pandemic and with Melbourne in lockdown, Tim decided to email a small group of friends a joke of the day. He sent an email for 550 consecutive days to what grew to be a distribution of over 350 people. Many of us became accustomed to starting our day with Tim's Ticklers and they are sorely missed. Tim battled with poor health over the last year of his life, although you would never know it in speaking to him. He died peacefully in palliative care close to his beloved Mornington Peninsula, which had been home for the past decade. Following COVID-related delays, a celebration of his life was held in Melbourne on 16 February 2022 where a large gathering said farewell to a true gentleman and greatly loved friend. (*Paul Ackerman, OC Co-ordinator, Victoria Australia*)

**PALMER (Common Room, 1951-69).** On March 25, 2022, **Alan Palmer**, former Head of History at Highgate, aged 95. Hugely respected by his pupils, Alan taught at the School from September 1951 to December 1969 before embarking upon a very successful career in historical writing, research and publishing, specialising in mid-19th-mid 20th century East European History and becoming one of the pre-eminent historians of the period. He was a fellow of the Royal Society of Literature and taught countless OCs from his high desk in Room 9. A Requiem Mass for him took place on May 5th 2022 at the Church of St Mary Magdalen Oxford, where Alan worshipped for many years. The Address was given by Revd. Dr. Brian Curnew (SH 1960). (*see full obituary on page 5*)

**HAIGH (GH 1953).** On January 14, 2022, **John David Haigh**, peacefully, aged 80. He always spoke fondly of his time at the School, as a member of the Combined Cadet Force and of his lifelong friends and association with the OC. Upon leaving school he graduated from King Edward VII Nautical College, London and served on Merchant Ships before a change in direction in the 1960's saw him work in the Insurance Industry, where he remained for over 35 years until his retirement in 1999. After retirement, John served on the Board of the Royal Mineral Hospital in Bath, worked as a Witness Service Volunteer in Wiltshire and on local school Admission Appeal Boards. A lifelong supporter of Local Football, he worked with both the Devon and Wiltshire County Football Associations, was honorary member of the Wiltshire County FA, a Life Member of the Local Sunday League in Chippenham and was recently recognised by the Football Association for over 50 years of service to football. John was admitted to the Worshipful Company of Wheelwrights in 1970 and later became a Freeman of the City of London. He is survived by his wife Jill, sons Peter and Andrew, daughter Sharon and Grandchildren, Edward, Emily and Joseph.

**HILL (EG 1955).** On November 20, 2021, **Michael John Hill**, four days short of his 79th birthday, in hospital in Bristol. He was a PRO for the Ministry of Defence, and a Barnet Councillor from 1974 to 1986, when he moved to Northampton where he became Mayor for one year and later moved to Bristol.

**HODGSON (MG 1956).** On December 14, 2021, **William Anthony Hodgson**, aged 79, in hospital in Chelmsford. He had various employments and lived in Potters Bar for some time before moving to Blackmore End in Essex in 2001. He was the younger brother of Dr John Hodgson (MG 1953).

**ORMEROD (NG 1956).** In Autumn 2021, **John Henry Ormerod**, aged about 80. He was Head of Mathematics at The Ryde School, Isle of Wight.

**MILLER (NG 1957).** In early 2022, **Andrew Maynard Miller**, aged 77.

**COMBES (CH 1958).** On June 6, 2021, **Robert David Combes**, aged 75. *His brother Trevor Combes (CH 1952) writes:* My brother was a contemporary of OC President Richard Brewster, who has kindly sent me some pictures of them at the time. Robert was hard working, sporty and had a passion for Classical Music. After 'A' levels he went to Queen Mary College, where he obtained a First in Botany and a PhD in genetics. It was there that he met his future wife Kristine, a librarian; they had a son and a daughter, and five grandchildren. His PhD led him to a lifetime of research in finding alternatives to reduce the use of animals in testing - no more smoking dogs! From lecturing at Portsmouth Polytechnic, he was head-hunted to work at Inveresk Research, becoming head of Mutagenicity and Cellular toxicology. He next became Scientific director of FRAME, the Fund for the Replacement of Animals in Medical Experiments. Part of his remit was to teach Cell biology at Nottingham Medical School and supervise PhD students; he was made an Honorary Professor. His passion for change was to become his working life for many years until the breakup of his marriage and subsequent severe depression. Fortunately my late wife and I were retired, and we happily undertook his rehabilitation over six months, after which he was able to lead a normal life and started a career in scientific journalism, moving to be near his daughter in Norwich. He became involved in ATLA, the European agency for promoting Alternatives To Laboratory Animals, quickly rose up the ranks and was noted for taking a record of the meetings and writing up the day's events before going to socialise! His scientific journalism flourished until he was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease, but his intellect was not impaired, and he was still able to write incisively, having very strong views on the safety of Vaping. Eventually, though, he had to go into a care home and sadly died shortly after a hernia operation, though he still had much to give. A very modest man, I now realise how little I knew about him even though we spoke regularly. Tributes from colleagues and co-authors make me very proud of him, and when I Google him, I am amazed to learn of the 291 peer-reviewed articles he published, and his many other research and journalistic achievements. The laboratory animal kingdom is the better for his work.

**PEATY (WG 1959).** In September, 2021, **(Frank) Philip Peaty** (WH Jan-July 1959), aged 76.

**MALPAS (Common Room 1961-67).** On December 6, 2021, **Anthony (Tony) John Malpas**, aged 85, at home, after a long illness. Born into a musical Methodist family, he was educated at King's School, Gloucester and Newent Grammar School. After National Service in the RAF, he read Chemistry at New College, Oxford. He married Ann Bassington in 1962; they had two children, Sarah and Jonathan. His first teaching post was at Highgate and both he and Ann became involved in the Highgate Counselling Centre. In 1867 he moved to King's School, Wimbledon before returning to Chemistry teaching as head of Chemistry first in Burford, and then in 1976 in Presteigne. On an organic smallholding in Kimbolton, Herefordshire, he grew cider apples and an interest in local history resulted in a study group which produced a series of publications. Tony was an enthusiastic and modest polymath with a talent for communication.

**WOODS (SH 1961).** On August 13, 2021, **Richard John Christopher Woods**, aged 72. At Highgate he excelled in track, boxing and swimming and played bass guitar in his band The Dream Merchants. He received his bachelor's degree in computer science from the University of Essex in 1971. Between his educational endeavours, he appeared in the first scenes of *2001: A Space Odyssey*, starring in the film's first scenes 'The Dawn of Man', where he was immortalized in Sci-Fi film lore as early man's first murder victim. He joined Digital Equipment Corporation (UK) in 1972 and transferred to Maynard, Massachusetts in 1975, where he was software engineer, network engineer and product manager for 25 years. He then spent ten years as an independent consultant in the computer industry. Richard met his wife Suzee (Mitchell) while working at Digital. They lived in Concord and Carlisle, Massachusetts, Elmira, New York and retired to New Vineyard, Maine in 2009. Richard enjoyed fixing troubled computers, working with his tractor on the woodlot and outfitting the family off-grid cabin with modern conveniences. He was a successful rental-property owner and manager. Despite never actually learning to ice skate, he served as president, registrar and coach in the Concord Carlisle Youth Hockey program for many years. Most of all, he delighted in creating stories to share with his grand guys – Jaxon, Maxx, Axyl and Sullivan. In New Vineyard, he was an active volunteer with the Library, Historical Society, and Town; he was the go-to computer guy if no one else could fix it. He loved to learn (everyday), share his knowledge and was always available to help find a solution to any problem, any time. Richard is survived by his wife of 44 years, Suzee of New Vineyard; three sons, Michael and wife Jennie (Brown) of Groton, MA, Jesse and partner Jen Rosselli of Fitchburg, MA, and Luke of St. Petersburg, FL.

**SMETHERS (EG 1962).** In early 2022, **Richard John Smethers**, aged 72.

**PORTER (QG 1966).** On November 10, 2021, **John Robert Camber Porter**, aged 68, after a five-year battle with lung cancer. A grandson of Tesco founder Sir Jack Cohen and former leader of Westminster City council Dame Shirley Porter, he obtained degrees from Oxford, the Institute d'Etudes Politiques in Paris, and Stanford Graduate School of Business, where he served on the advisory council. He was chairman of Verifone from 1985 until the company was sold to Hewlett-Packard in 1997. During the early 1990s he became involved with property development company Chelverton Investments, and with US computer company Telos, based in Virginia, which has close ties to the Pentagon and specialised in the communication systems which formed the backbone of the US Army. In 2015 he used his holding company i-Spire to acquire a 50% stake in digital marketing firm LD Sharma. In 2016 he joined the Board of Trustees of UK charity Paintings in Hospitals. (*Information from his Wikipedia entry*)

**BAINBRIDGE (MG 1967).** On April 2, 2021, **Simon Jeremy Bainbridge**, aged 69. He was a composer and professor of composition at the Royal Academy of Music in London; much of his music related to space, buildings and architecture, such as *Chant* (1999), a BBC commission for chorus and ensemble inspired by York Minster involving a reworking of mediaeval plainchant by Hildegard of Bingen. By the age of 8 or 9 he had decided to become a composer, and recalled discussing with his father, artist John Bainbridge, the process of getting pictures onto canvas, which he tried to emulate in his music. He took lessons at the Central Tutorial School for Young Musicians (now the Purcell School). At the Royal college of Music, he studied clarinet with Sidney Fell and composition with John Lambert, who made him write a piece of 16<sup>th</sup>-century-style counterpoint every week. But he was unable to get his music performed at the college, and his first big exposure came in a concert for the Society for the Promotion of New Music at Aldeburgh in 1971, when the English Chamber Orchestra performed his *Spirogyra*. His postgraduate studies were at Tanglewood, Massachusetts, where he learned to handle instrumental colour, as shown in his *Viola Concerto* (1976) and *Fantasia for Double Orchestra* (1984), often described as his best early works. He briefly worked on minimalism, such as *Voicing* (1986), written for the Nash Ensemble, but he found the concept limiting, and similarly with serialism. In 1997 he won the \$150,000 Grawe Meyer Award in Music Composition for *Ad Ora Incerta – Four Orchestral Songs from Primo Levi*, a work for mezzo-soprano, bassoon and orchestra evoking images of concentration camps; it drew on Levi's wartime poetry and his own memories of visiting Auschwitz. Other major works include *Landscape and Memory* (1995), a concerto for horn and chamber orchestra, which he described as music frozen in time as the listener in effect walks through and around musical objects; *Guitar Concerto* (1998), first performed by David Starobin and the Birmingham Contemporary Music Group; and *Concerti Grossi* (2020). Buildings designed by architect Daniel Libeskind also featured in his compositions;



*Music, Space Reflection* (2007) was written with Libeskind's Imperial War Museum North, in mind. Many of his works had a difficult gestation; he remarked that it took him a long time to work his way into the medium for his second-string quartet (2016), saying that "I sketched about a hundred pages of score and threw them all away before I began to be aware of a really strong characterisation to the music." He never felt constrained by the classical idiom, producing works such as *For Miles* (1994), a jazzy tribute to Miles Davis. But his works were not all abstract; *Garden of Earthly Delights* (2012), first performed at the Proms, plunges the listener into the world of the triptych by Hieronymus Bosch. He was appointed head of composition at the Royal Academy of Music in 2001; but it took a good deal of his time and energy and after seven years he reverted to leading composition seminars. He found the exchange of ideas with students stimulating but was increasingly concerned by the number who had little knowledge of the music of even the greatest composers, let alone the techniques of composition. He suffered from back problems, for which surgery in 2017 proved unsuccessful. In 1997 he married the soprano Lynda Richardson, for whom he wrote *Landscapes and Magic Words* (1981), based on Inuit poetry, first heard at the Edinburgh Festival; she survives him with their daughter, actress Rebecca Bainbridge. (*adapted from obituary in the Daily Telegraph, 13 June 2021*)

**HOWARD (QG 1972).** In March 2022, **Thomas Andrew Howard**, aged 63, while mountaineering in the Adirondacks in New York state, United States of America. A Doctor of Economics, Tom worked as a computer programmer for the Pentagon, a macroeconomist for Fuji Bank, and as a consultant for Arthur D. Little and PIRA Energy. At Highgate and as a young man, he was an avid track and cross-country runner, at one time setting the 10K record in Britain for his age group. Tom was an accomplished mountaineer and hiker, climbing some of the most challenging mountains on the globe: Mt. McKinley in Alaska, Mt. Huascarán in Peru, and Xixabangma Peak in the Himalayas, to name but a few. He hiked the 273-mile Long Trail in Vermont and the entire 2,000-mile Appalachian Trail from Maine to Georgia. In October 2021, he crossed the White Mountain Presidential Range in one day. He aspired to climb the second-highest mountain on each of the seven continents and had finished the first part of this journey when he scaled Mt. Kenya in 2021. Tom is survived by his wife, Zhu Zhang Howard (Julie), and daughters Gwendolyn and Madison Howard. He met Julie while working in New York; they were married in 1993, and moved to Westport, Connecticut in 1997. The funeral service was held on 26 March at St. Luke Catholic Church, Westport. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in the name of Tom Howard to Search and Rescue of the Northern Adirondacks, [www.paypal.com/fundraiser/charity/1358274](http://www.paypal.com/fundraiser/charity/1358274), benefitting search and



rescue efforts in the Northern Adirondacks, or to Saint Luke Catholic Church, [www.paypal.com/paypalme/SaintLukeRCChurch?locale.x=en\\_US](http://www.paypal.com/paypalme/SaintLukeRCChurch?locale.x=en_US).

**GILES (Headmaster 1974-1989).** On July 11, 2021, **Roy Giles**, Headmaster 1974-1989. He was Head of Modern Languages at Eton College before becoming Headmaster at Highgate and was Administrator of The Busoga Trust (*see full obituary on page 3*). He leaves his wife Christine and son Tim; their son Andrew predeceased him.

**CHILDS (Common Room, 1975-96).** During 2021, **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.

**ROBERTS (Junior School Staff 1976-86).** On March 13, 2022, **William Ieuan Roberts**, former Music teacher at the Junior School, aged 90. *Ian MacGregor (EG 1979) writes:* I first met Ieuan when I was 7 years old in the Junior School. He played an important role in my future life, and we would remain close friends for nearly 50 years. Our music lessons were the highlight of my time at Highgate. Ieuan had an incredible talent in being able to get anyone to sing; he believed that every boy can sing - you just have to help him to find his voice. He did this by inspiring us with his choice of beautiful songs - not the usual music taught in most schools, but a song like *Windmills of Your Mind* - I can picture him hanging up the card with the words on it. I will forever associate *O Holy Night* with him and thought of him when I accompanied two Welsh West Wend singers performing it on Welsh TV a couple of years ago. We also enjoyed performing operas once a year. My most memorable were *The Golden Flute* and *The Bride of Seville*, abridged versions of Mozart's *Magic Flute* and Rossini's *Barber of Seville*. Ieuan accompanied us on the piano. At the time, we didn't quite appreciate what an amazing pianist and accompanist he was. I remember taking him the score of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat* which I was struggling to play; he just opened it up and not only played it with ease but elaborated on it beautifully. When I asked him how he knew what extra notes to play, he said "I just know!" I spent as much time as I could with Ieuan outside classes, and we often walked to the tube together on the way home. Occasionally he would give me a lift in his brand-new car - he told me that he loved teaching at Highgate because during the long summer holidays he could tour the United States



with a soprano, and he spent the money he earned on the car! I was so upset when he said that he was moving back to Wales in my final term of the Junior School. They brought in a retired ex-head of music from the Senior School to cover for him, and music was not the same in that final term. I wrote to leuan telling him how much I wanted him to come back. He did return, but by then I was in the Senior School. However, this didn't stop me seeing him regularly. I have a vivid memory of seeing two world class musicians, leuan and the now renowned violinist Daniel Hope, then about 11 or 12, at an orchestral rehearsal – over the sea of noise from the brass, woodwind and strings you could hear this joyous solo violin, and both of them were clearly loving the experience of making music, no matter how awful the accompaniment! His education extended beyond the classroom. I remember a special occasion when he took me to see the Bach Choir singing the St. Matthew Passion at the Royal Festival Hall, which ensured my life-long love of Bach's choral music. I owe even more to leuan. In my final Easter term in the Senior School, I went down to see him to moan about the fact that the head of music had not taught me any of my A Level music syllabus and was resigned to the fact that I would have to rely on my other 3 A Levels as I would almost certainly fail music. He calmly said I shouldn't worry and gave me 5 lessons on my set works and analysis. I have still got my immaculately annotated scores of Vivaldi's *Four Seasons*, Brahms 4<sup>th</sup> *Symphony* and Schubert's *Die schöne Müllerin*. The day before my exam he set me 3 essays which I gave him, and his words were "you will be fine". I got an A, entirely due to his incredible teaching. I asked him if my parents could pay him and he refused, saying "when you are earning you can take me out to dinner." I then went to university and started a career as a consulting actuary and events overtook me, until I realised about 6 years later that I hadn't taken him out to dinner. I managed to track him down and took him to dinner to express my rather overdue gratitude. From this moment on we would meet regularly and take each other out for dinner or lunch, in London or in Sussex, a tradition which continued until last September when I took leuan and his partner Ken out to celebrate leuan's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. It is not too much to describe him as a genius. His teaching was truly inspirational. He affected many of our lives deeply, and I can honestly say that I owe my whole life to him – he gave me my life-long love of music and set me on the path that led me to become a full-time professional musician. Colin Howard, my music teacher in the Senior School, said: "all that you absorbed, learned and digested from a fine mentor like leuan remains with you and will continue to sustain you."

**ZUNDEL (MG 1968).** On April 13, 2022, **Marc Girling Zundel**, age 66, following a long illness, beloved father of Hugo and Polly, and brother of Gareth (MG 1971). Marc was Head of School under both Alfred Doulton and Roy Giles.

## Notes

A book by author **ROBERT AICKMAN (1928)** has been published posthumously. Aickman was a writer and a conservationist. As a conservationist, he co-founded the Inland Waterways Association, a group which has preserved from destruction and restored England's inland canal system. As a writer, he is best known for his supernatural fiction, which he described as "strange stories." His 'lost' novel, *Go Back at Once*, was written in 1975 but has only recently been published.

**STEPHEN KOMLOSY (TL 1954)** has led a colourful life and has now published a book about it: *You've Got to Pick a Pocket or Two*. Stephen was also featured in *Mensa Magazine* in 2021.

**HOWARD DARBON (GH 1955)** undertook his annual rickshaw challenge for Children in Need again in 2021, albeit with some unforeseen adaptations. The rickshaw suffered a major problem early on in the day which made it impossible to carry people in it, but Howard continued to let children (and some adults) sit in the rickshaw for photographs and was able to raise over £200. Howard would like to thank all who have already donated; to help this very worthwhile cause, then please go to <http://shorturl.at/aezLV>

**DAVID CREWE (MG 1956)** has been honoured by the Australian Government for services to the performing arts, with the award of an Honorary Order of Australia Medal. David's interest in the theatre was awoken by his involvement in the Dramatic Society at Highgate under the tutelage of Geoffrey Pether. After leaving school, he moved from acting to journalism, eventually setting up a PR and events business, David Crewe Associates, with his wife, Helen. Upon his retirement to Malta, David revisited the arts, staging a musical drama 'Besieged' about the Turkish attack on the island in 1551. Since then, he has been commissioned for numerous songs and productions; has produced, written and directed pantomimes, festivals and plays; and served as President of the Maleny Players. Since moving to Kerikeri in New Zealand in 2016, as Artistic Director of the Stage Door Theatre Company, David has directed three of his original works, 'Billy Goes to War', 'The Trial of Dr Millicent Malville', and 'Robin Hood and the Babes in the Wood'. He recently directed 'Shrek the Musical', 'Calendar Girls' and 'Sleeping Beauty' at the Turner Centre.

**PHILIP BRITTON (MG 1959)** retired in 2017 from being Visiting Professor in the Centre of Construction Law & Dispute Resolution, The Dickson Poon School of Law, King's College London; he had also been Director of the Centre. He taught at King's since 1998, after a period as Production Director for Television Education Network (1991-1996), making video programmes for lawyers and other professionals after his first posts as Lecturer, then Senior Lecturer, in the School of



Law at the University of Warwick. In 1997 he started teaching English law to French law graduates part-time at the Université de Lille II. His construction law activity led him eight times to win one of the prizes in the Society of Construction Law's annual Hudson essay competition, and to teach regularly in the Melbourne Law Masters, where his collaboration with the Co-Director of the Construction Law programme, Matthew Bell, led to their joint authorship of *Residential Construction Law* for Hart Publishing, written during the pandemic and published in 2021. Now living in Aldeburgh, Suffolk with his husband Tom, he was for almost ten years one of the Trustees of Blyth Valley Chamber Music, organising a chamber music series each summer at St Mary's Cratfield. In 2021 he self-published a memoir of his father: *About Alex*.

**NICK COMFORT (SH 1959)** published his autobiography in summer 2021, through Amazon: "Copy! A life in print, Parliament and far-flung places." Most of it deals with his career as a political journalist on the Daily Telegraph and other national papers, but its subjects range from sharing a desk with Boris Johnson to being shot at in Uganda. There is quite a bit of Highgate interest, covering his father's (Dr. Alex Comfort, 1933) time there as well as his own. – pages 14-15, 38-42, 47-48, 62, 189, 198, 206, 453 and 457 refer!

**JEREMY THOMPSON (GH 1964)** was appointed Captain of the England Rifle Team for the Home International Long-Range Match at Bisley in July 2021. England won the Match, Scotland were second, Ireland third and Wales fourth.

**MICHAEL PAYNE (SG 1971)**, former International Olympic Committee Director, has published a 500-page coffee table book including a collection of more than 1,200 Olympic themed political cartoons accompanied by 100,000 words of Payne's behind-the-scenes insight and commentary. The foreword was written by Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Professor Muhammad Yunus. All proceeds from "Toon In!" will benefit four dedicated charities and causes.

**TONY BLEETMAN (QG 1974)** has written a number of books on his work as an air ambulance doctor. Tony worked as an air ambulance doctor and served as clinical director of HEMS in the Midlands for a number of years. Amongst other things, Tony now serves as an associate professor at the University of Warwick Medical School and continues to work in the NHS.

**PAUL ACKERMAN (NG 1975)** reports that the Victorian OCs met for lunch on Sunday 20 March 2022; their first gathering since the lifting of what they hope will be the final lockdown in Melbourne. There were nineteen OCs and partners present, including Malcolm Furnival Jones (NG 1953) and his wife Brenda who were in Melbourne visiting their son; they were delighted to meet Malcolm and Brenda, who added greatly to a

very enjoyable occasion. Should any other OC's find themselves in our part of the world do please feel free to get in touch.

**ANDREW SZYDLO**, legendary Highgate science teacher, returned to the Royal Institution for a seventh time for an unforgettable evening exploring the fascinating world of chemistry. He took the audience on a journey through the exciting, confusing and sometimes explosive world of chemical changes. No-one since Michael Faraday in the 19th Century has been asked to the RI on so many occasions, to give talks to children.

**EDWARD VILLERS (SG 1977)** has been appointed Vice Chair of Middlesex County Cricket Club. He played cricket for the OCS for many years. He was first co-opted onto the Middlesex Board in May 2016 as one of two non-voting Board members, initially on a three-year term, secured a further term, and is currently serving his seventh year on the Board. He chairs the Club's Commercial Committee, sits on its Recreational Cricket Committee and is Chair of the Tendulkar Middlesex Global Academy. He is Chair of Primrose Hill Cricket Club and played a leading role in the formation of the club, which has a thriving youth section and over 350 members. He is an ECB Level One Coach and still coaches Primrose Hill's Under-8s and Under-9s. He works in global finance, most recently as Head of Markets London, and Global Head of Sales at Rabobank, and sits on the Board of a number of financial institutions in the Middle East as well as of Cantor Fitzgerald Europe.

**OWEN JENKINS (WG 1982)** is the British Ambassador to Indonesia and Timor-Leste. The British Embassy in Jakarta is currently working with local and international groups to launch a training programme for Indonesian women who own their own businesses. HERfuture aims to increase digital literacy among women entrepreneurs and to help them maximize the use of technology to support their businesses. Owen said the HERfuture program could help strengthen SMEs' presence and resilience during the pandemic by giving them new skills and additional knowledge to navigate the online market. "The COVID-19 pandemic strains all businesses, so if we could give [SME owners] some new skills and some additional knowledge to navigate the online market, to give them access to new markets and finance, it would strengthen their resilience," he said. Before his appointment as Ambassador, Owen was the British Prime Minister's Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan, responsible for engaging at the highest levels in the region and internationally on issues such as the Afghan peace process, cooperation on counterterrorism and bilateral relations. He was also the Director at the UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) responsible for South Asia and Afghanistan, covering Afghanistan, Bhutan, Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Nepal and Pakistan.

**PROFESSOR SAUL LEHRFREUND MBE (SH 1982),**

"The lawyer who saved 1,000 from the noose", was profiled on the Jewish Chronicle in July 2021. Saul is a human rights lawyer, co-founder and Co-Executive Director of The Death Penalty Project, an international human rights organisation founded in 1992 and based in London. He is a founder member of the UK Foreign & Commonwealth Office Pro Bono Panel. In November 2000 he was awarded an MBE for services to international human rights law and in July 2009 he received an honorary degree of Doctor of Laws from the University of Reading. He has represented prisoners under sentence of death before the domestic courts in the Commonwealth and international tribunals.

([shorturl.at/ortuO](http://shorturl.at/ortuO))

**ADRIAN GRUMI (KG 1983)** was elected a Conservative councillor for the London Borough of Enfield in the May 2022 local elections.

**JON POLLEDRI (SH 1987)**, Past OC President, raised money in June 2021 for the British Asian Trust by taking part in 'Palaces on Wheels', where cyclists take on 100km each day, stopping off at royal palaces on their way to Sandringham Estate in Norfolk. Jon cycled an amazing 402.48km to support a cause close to his heart.

**MAX MILLER (QG 2008)** has opened a second Plant-based burger restaurant. With menu items including The Big Ready Meal and The Chicken Challenger, Ready Burger is a completely vegan, affordable alternative to traditional fast-food joints. Max and chef Adam Clark have plans already in progress for two more store openings. Max says: "We set out to bring a host of great tasting, affordable fast food to everybody. Whether a vegetarian, vegan or a meat eater, our menus are designed to offer food that tastes amazing, which almost anyone can enjoy, but doesn't cost the earth - in more ways than one. Most people who come here are meat-eaters, and we like when people say 'I feel like I've been tricked' - that's kind of the point." Ready Burger can be found at 16 Park Road, Crouch End, London N8 8TD and 14/15 Frognal Parade, Finchley Road, London NW3 5HH, and is also available to order on Just Eat, Deliveroo and Uber Eats.

**ROB DACRE (WG C/2007)** and a colleague, in an article reminiscent of the work of Isaac Asimov and his Laws of Robotics, explore the growing question of criminal liability in the workplace - for robots. The topic poses complicated problems in matters of law and health and safety.

**CHARLOTTE KAYE (HG 2007)**, after a decade of teaching art in secondary schools and museums, Charlotte has launched her own enterprise, teaching sewing and textile arts. Called The Garden Sewing School, it is based in Hampstead with the primary aim of making textile arts accessible. Charlotte feels passionately that sustainability and self-sufficiency can help to build confidence and independence in young people.

**SHEYDA MONSHIZADEH-AZAR (HG 2007)** has launched a new business venture, Persian Apothecary. Sheyda describes it as a tea collection inspired by her own memories of the richness and complexity of Iran. The teas are made in England using the finest ingredients from across the world, but they are inspired by the ancient tea traditions and recipes passed down to Sheyda by her mother, Nazy. Visit [www.persianapothecary.com](http://www.persianapothecary.com) for more information.

**HESTER BOYCE (TL c/2009)** was featured by About Time as one of their Top 5 Female Brewers. She spoke about her current role at The Wild Beer Co. in Somerset, as well as the joy of working with other brewers at the We Are Beer collaboration brew day [shorturl.at/nowLY](http://shorturl.at/nowLY)

**AIDEN TSEN (SH c/2009)** is a public speaker, blogger and artist who is doing important advocacy work about autism and experience as a person of colour in the LGBTQ+ community. During 2021 Aiden gave talks for KEEN London volunteers and sixth formers at LAE Tottenham, for the Asperger London Area Group, and at Autescape, Europe's largest annual Autistic conference. To find out more about Aiden's talks, visit <http://shorturl.at/fqwyN>

**GUY WOOLF (TL 2009)** directs a new production of *Interruptions* at the Jackson's Lane Arts Centre, Highgate, on 3-4 December 2021. *Interruptions*, originally devised by Annabel Arden and Stephen Jeffreys, shows an imaginary country preparing for an election, undergoing a military coup, and then living through the consequences. Guy is Creative Director and Co-Founder of new theatre company *represent*.

**DR GOLNOUSH GOLSHIRAZI (WG 2010)** was named as one of The Big Issue's 100 Change Makers; this celebrates people who the magazine believes will play an important role in making sure society benefits everyone in 2022. Golnoush has been recognised for her work with ScreenMe, a company which provides home-testing for abnormalities which can indicate reproductive health problems, among the most difficult conditions for which to receive diagnoses and treatment.

**HARRY HATCHWELL (SG 2010)** completed his BSc at the University of Bristol. He now works for a company called Tevva, who make zero-emission electric and hydrogen trucks and are on a mission to develop technology supporting clean and sustainable transportation and logistics, particularly in urban areas.

Composer **OLIVER ZEFFMAN (TL c/2011)** spoke to the Jewish Chronicle about his lockdown project, *Eight Songs from Isolation*. Fifty people worked on the project, from Berlin, Budapest, Kherson, London, Meknes, Mexico City, Munich, New York, St Petersburg, San Diego and Shanghai. Oliver has just released the second of his two major projects of the last couple of years, an extraordinary film, *Live at the V&A* [shorturl.at/emuBQ](http://shorturl.at/emuBQ)



**IDIN SABAHIPOUR (GH 2013)** gives back by supporting other aspiring lawyers. Idin is a trainee solicitor who is helping other young people who want to pursue a law career. Alongside acting as a mentor, he has launched a YouTube channel where he is frequently asked about the application process for law, including how to network effectively on LinkedIn. His videos can be seen on YouTube.

**DR. ALLY JAFFEE (SG 2014)** has received a Points of Light Award and recognition from the Prime Minister for her work with not-for-profit Nutritank. The award recognises outstanding individual volunteers who are making a difference to their community. Nutritank helps medical students and healthcare professionals to improve patient care, and members of the public to learn more about nutrition and is now used by 25 medical schools across the UK.

**ISABELLE CHAUZY (NG 2015)** was runner-up in the 2021 Guardian Foundation's Hugo Young Prize, a writing competition which champions the best political opinion writing amongst students and young people across the UK, for her article 'Rape Culture: Why are women still to blame?' Isabelle's article states that, in order to protect and support victims of sexual assault, change must happen at every level - from Parliament to the classroom, to conversations at home.

**TIM ROBERTS (TL 2015)** specialised in computer science after leaving Highgate and achieved a distinction in his Masters' degree at Imperial College London. He is now a software developer and co-founder of a fledgling start-up called Nuumi. Tim offers tutoring to people of all ages and abilities who want to develop their coding skills. He will tailor the content of the lessons to whatever the student wants to learn or build. Visit [www.codeothtim.net](http://www.codeothtim.net) for more information or email [oc@highgateschool.org.uk](mailto:oc@highgateschool.org.uk) to pass on your details.

**MAXIM AYS (GH 2017)** starred as Captain William Carter in the British historical drama television series Sanditon, based on an unfinished manuscript by Jane Austen and set during the Regency era. Series 2 of Sanditon will be available to watch on BritBox in March 2022 and will air on ITV later this year.

Congratulations to OC footballers **TOMMY NEVRKLA (GH c/2017)**, **GEORGE PUGH (TL c/2018)** and **CHARLIE PETERS (WG c/2018)**, who played in the recent Oxford v Cambridge university match. Charlie marked George for the whole game, and Oxford came out on top.

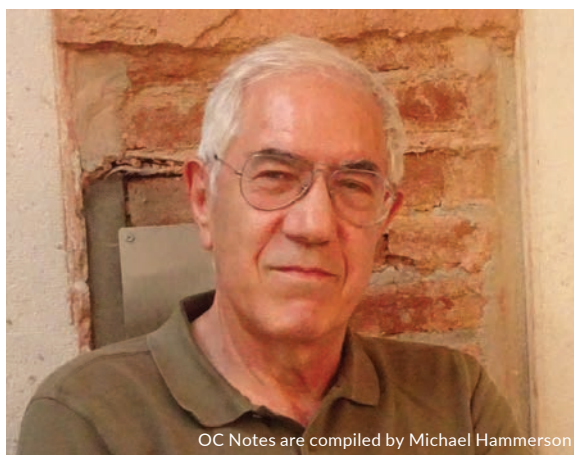
**MARJOLAINE BRISCOE (WG c/2017)** is Oxford University Fives captain.

**HUGO LLOYD-WILLIAMS (NG c/2019)** played for the 'light blues' in the 2021 varsity Rugby match.

**MARYAM GRASSLEY (WG 2020)** attended COP26 in Glasgow and curated a selection of quotes from the People's Summit for Climate Justice, organised by COP26 coalition and occurring from the 7–10 November.

**VIVIKA MARTINI (WG 2020)** won The Royal Academy of Engineering Award for Exceptional Pupil Achievement at the 21st Design and Technology Excellence Awards. In her acceptance speech, Vivika said: "I really don't think I would be here without the support and encouragement of my DT teacher Andy Thomson. I love the creative free rein that I had to work on individual self-initiated projects that solved problems that were important to me."

**JAMES KADZIAK (QG 2021)** was selected to represent Poland in the November 2021 World Junior Triathlon Championships in Portugal.



OC Notes are compiled by Michael Hammerson

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 Hazem Megerisi (TL 1986)  
 Jon Polledri (SH 1987)  
 Andy Savva (EG 1977)  
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## OC SPORT

### OC Sports Club

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#### Chair

Andy Savva (EG 1977)  
E savvjak@hotmail.com

#### Vice Chair

Alan Bedwell (EG 1953)  
E aljaguar@hotmail.com

#### Club Secretary

Nick Franklin (FG 2002)  
E nickfranklin12@hotmail.co.uk

*The OC sports club are the trustees of Hendon Wood Lane. OCs can join as social members. Football and cricket matches take place here, as well as social events. The club can be hired for private functions.*

### OC Sports Committee

#### Chair

Nina Sorenson (KG 2008)

*The OC sports committee meets regularly to plan and discuss the OC sports provision and communication for all OC sports.*

### Cricket Club

#### Chairman

John Zani (WG 1966)  
T 07710271767  
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#### Captain

Sam Khalique (HG 1990)  
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### Fives Club

#### Co-Captains

Jonny Ho (MG 2008)  
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Emily Scoones (GH 2009)  
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### Football Club

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Archie Patch (QG 2012)  
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#### Vice Captain

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#### Club Secretary

Nick Franklin (FG 2002)  
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### Golfing Society

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### Netball Club

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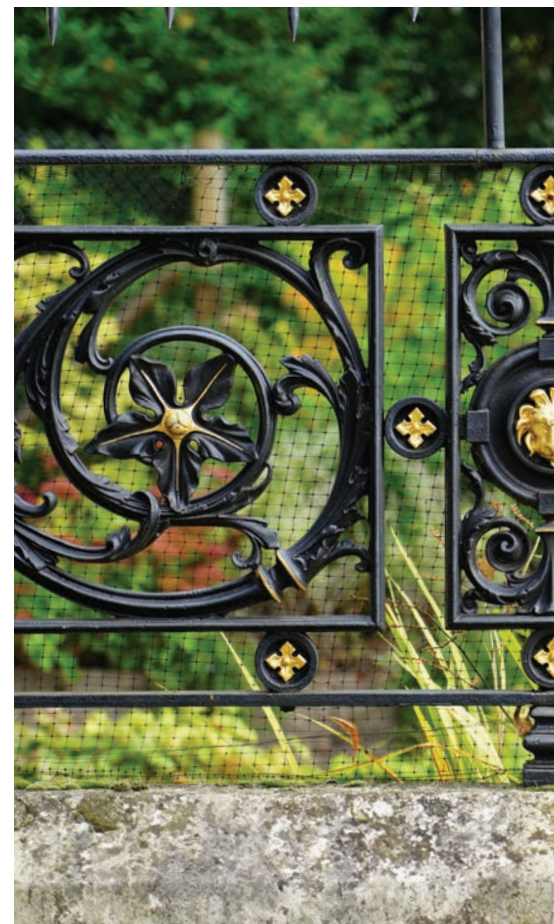
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