

HOUSE

THE WINCHESTER HOUSE ASSOCIATION ALUMNI MAGAZINE

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Front Cover: James Rudkin, Olympic Bronze Medalist

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A word from the Editor

Welcome to Issue 15 of HOUSE. As you will discover, the magazine is packed full of Housian, Community, School and Staff news, with James

Rudkin's lead article documenting his bronze medal rowing win at the Tokyo Olympics on page 22. The Science & Engineering theme was well received, with fascinating articles by Housians William Heaton on his life as a veterinary student (page 16), Dr Peter Pattison's review of his life in medical research (page 6), Michael Powell's stories of life in neurosurgery (page 10) and Sam Keating's mechanical engineering degree (page 19).

Whilst Covid restrictions did their best to curtail Housian events, school life has returned to normal. We look forward to welcoming you to the Classic Car Show and Dog Show on Saturday 22nd April 2023 and other events that are in the pipeline.

The theme for Issue 16 in 2023 is 'New Adventures'. Make it what you will – I look forward to hearing your article ideas! To keep up to date with the latest Housian and School news, please ensure we have your current email and postal addresses, and 'follow' us on Instagram at 'winchesterhouseschool'.

Lastly, my thanks go to the many contributors who continue to share their lives, experiences and thoughts with HOUSE. Big thanks also go to my eagle-eyed sub editors, Mark Keating and Martin Roberts, who can spot a typo from a hundred yards. Here's to 2023 and beyond. 

Emma McGowan, Editor

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Welcome from the Head



I fell in love with Winchester House the moment I arrived on a cold, blustery day last year. I was standing under the facade, the rain was pouring down around me, and all I could hear was a group of small children singing a rather brilliant interpretation of ‘What shall we do with a drunken sailor’. Having followed the singing, I found this dedicated group of Winchester House pupils who were completely committed to their performance, singing the song to their own actions and dance. They were finding such joy and pride in performing to an audience of one (their teacher), and that was the moment I realised how wonderful a school Winchester House truly is.

I have been totally bowled over by the warm welcome I have received from current families, colleagues and alumni since beginning with the school in January, and that welcome is clearly a reflection of the close, supportive and passionate community I have joined.

Before I arrived, I knew Winchester House’s reputation was that of a high attaining and well-rounded prep school. Now, I also know how happy, joyful, ambitious and dynamic a place it is too. Pupils are able to be who they are in an environment that allows them to grow as individuals, harnessing their passions and abilities to help them grow into their very "Best Self". The talented and experienced teaching team know the pupils as individuals, and are all passionate about helping them succeed in all areas of life.

The level of academic attainment speaks for itself, and should be a given in a successful Prep School, however the interest, enthusiasm and joy in lessons that I’ve seen from the pupils is something to behold.

Those that know me know how I don’t see teaching as just a job, but as a vocation. I am utterly obsessed with education. Throughout my career in teaching, working with children has given me so much energy and enthusiasm, a real *joie de vivre*, and it is always the deepest honour to help a young person find out who they are and help them on their journey to become the very best version of themselves. Children need to be at the edge of their ability to continuously develop their learning all of the time and, I’ve already been incredibly impressed and assured by the academic offering at Winchester House.

Co-curricular learning is rightly regarded as an important part of the Prep School sector, and I see this as a vital component of the complex picture that makes up a successful education for a child. The

Throughout my career in teaching, working with children has given me so much energy and enthusiasm, a real joie de vivre, and it is always the deepest honour to help a young person find out who they are and help them on their journey ...

facilities at Winchester House offer an extraordinary platform for the programme and I'm already in awe of the variety of activities on offer. I'm excited to take a co-curricular group, *Card Sharks*, helping Year 3 and Year 4 pupils become the card players of the future! We'll be working on the ongoing development of our co-curricular programme, creating space in the day where our pupils can develop and discover their passions and joys in life, as well as learning soft skills and a confidence that can be taken into the classroom and, as they grow, into the workplace.

I've also very much enjoyed the opportunity to stand on the touchlines watching the thriving sports teams at Winchester House. What fantastic sporting ability we have throughout the school and across a range of sports. I have to admit, however, I'm not the traditional reserved Head on the sidelines, and do support with plenty of gusto!

It is of course, a very exciting time in the history of Winchester House with the formation of The Stowe Group. Our pupils have already been given

new opportunities as part of the Group, across academics, sport and the performing arts, and we're excited to be announcing some new developments at Winchester House shortly, that have been made possible by being part of the Group.

I know that Emma McGowan works very hard throughout the year to ensure that the alumni programme continues to inspire and engage our wonderful past pupils and their families. May I take this opportunity to thank her on all of our behalves for her wonderful work in this area. I was intrigued to meet her as people kept saying to me with reference to an amazing array of things 'Oh Emma McGowan does that'. When I met the sociable energy bomb that she is, I knew they were telling the truth! I very much hope you will be able to join us soon for one of our alumni events, where I can have the pleasure of meeting you in person, if we have yet to meet. 

With best wishes,

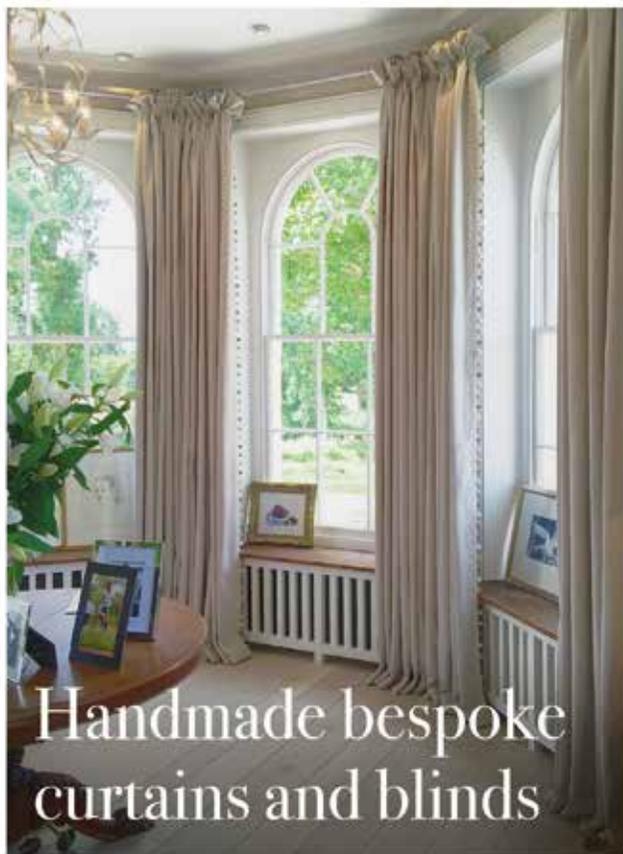
Antonia Lee, Head



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Triage. Organising new patients at the hospital in South Korea.



A LIFE IN MEDICAL RESEARCH

By Housian Dr Pete Pattison (1945 – 1950)

Medical research can take many forms. Much research today (like the recent development of vaccines against Covid 19) takes place in modern high-tech laboratories. Yet, even then, the products need to be field tested with real patients. As with all scientific research, the principles of careful observation, meticulous documentation and testing of hypotheses remain the same.

As far back as Hippocrates (500 BC) refuting claims that epilepsy was caused by phases of the moon or William

Harvey (17th Century) describing the circulation of the blood or Alexander Ross (19th century) observing and recording the lifecycle of the anopheles mosquito and the malaria parasite, each and every successful researcher was a careful observer, allowing the facts to mould his or her preconceptions.

Our own research programme starting in 1966, stretching over 15 years in rural Korea, was exploring the optimal management and treatment of tuberculosis of the spine.

As is well-known, tuberculosis is predominantly a disease of the lungs, but around 10% of infections occur in other parts of the body, notably the weight-bearing joints – spine, hip and knee in descending order of frequency.

Untreated tuberculosis of the spine, especially the upper spine, produces kyphosis (curvature) and, in some cases, damage to the spinal cord leading to paraplegia (paralysis, the hunchback of Notre Dame probably had spinal tuberculosis). Our research was confined to those still able to walk, although we had many other patients unable to walk, the majority of whom made a good recovery.

BACKGROUND TO THE RESEARCH PROGRAMME

There was hot dispute in orthopaedic circles at the time (1960s) as to the optimal treatment of such patients. All were agreed that anti-tuberculosis medication was essential, though there was no consensus as to the necessary duration of treatment. Opinions varied between 9 months and two years and everyone in the field ‘did what was right in his own eyes’. Some argued that surgical intervention was important, even essential, though without agreement as to what surgery was appropriate. Others claimed that in most cases it was unnecessary. Since the bulk of the disease occurred (and still does occur) in resource-poor settings, these were critical questions. It is much harder to ensure consistent treatment over 18 months where the infrastructure is shaky than say over 9 months. Furthermore, surgical skills and financial resources are scarce in such settings, meaning that effective treatment is beyond the means of the majority of patients and their families.

The Medical Research Council (MRC) in London decided to establish a clinical trial to provide some definitive answers to these questions. It was the first such random trial in a surgical subject. Places with relatively high incidence of disease AND reliable data collection and recording were few and far between. The MRC settled on four locations – Bulawayo (in what

was then Rhodesia), Hong Kong (where the most vocal (and skilled) proponents of surgical intervention were located) and two centres in South Korea.

HOW DID WE BECOME INVOLVED IN THIS PROJECT?

It began, I am sure, with the stimulation of a boy’s natural curiosity at WHS – whether it was tracing clues in Scout wide games, counting the number of times that Heinz (the non-descript dog who would accompany us on school walks) would lift a leg during the walk or the fascination of electric trains among the rafters of the upper quadrangle.

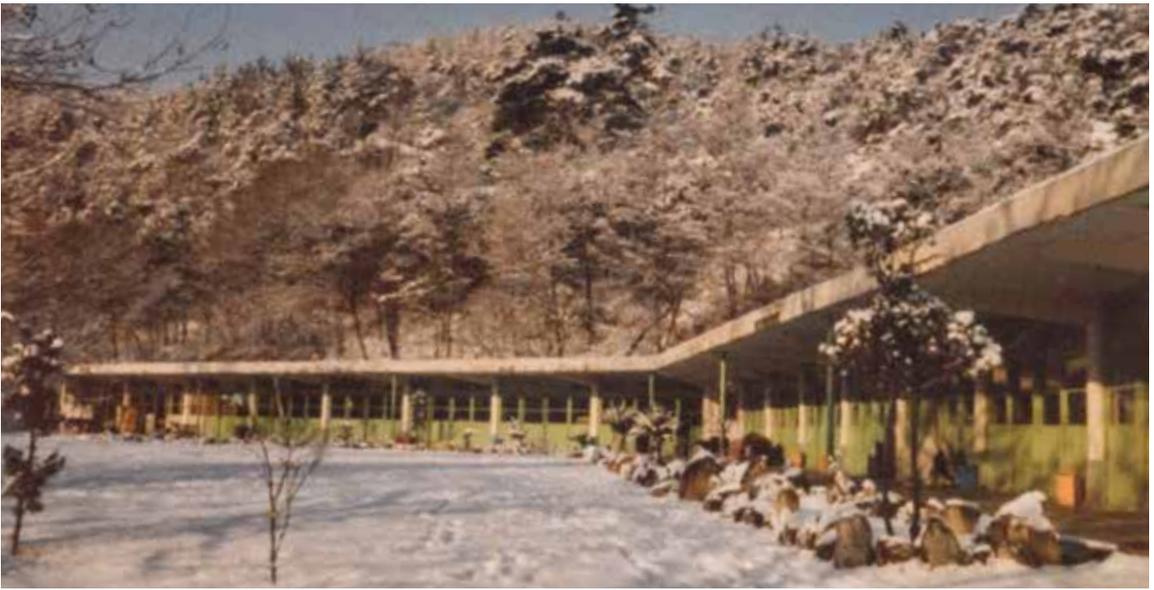
HOW DID WE ARRIVE IN KOREA, OF ALL PLACES?

It came through the staged call of God over four years of university life, though this had begun much further back when, aged 12 in WHS chapel, I listened to the account of Jesus in the temple, also aged 12. ‘I must be about my Father’s business,’ he had said to his mother and I knew deep within me that this would be my calling too. It began with a calling, while at university, first to discipleship of Jesus Christ, then specifically to change my studies to medicine, from there the call focussed on work overseas and then this became a clear call to Korea.

All of this was years before I knew anything about the Medical Research Council or tuberculosis of the



The nearby countryside.



Below: The hospital staff. Above: The hospital on a snowy day.



spine. As a young doctor I spent a year in Bulawayo to widen my experience – and, yes, you’ve guessed it, much of that time was spent in the orthopaedic department where my boss was beginning his branch of the MRC trial described above.

After return to UK and marriage, we were ready for Korea, but had no idea how we would get there. It was at this point that we learned that the MRC were looking for a doctor to pick up the threads of the spinal tuberculosis project that had already been started in Korea. It was not difficult to make the link with my experience in Bulawayo. We were on our way in late 1966.

The best research is collaborative rather than competitive. For us the wisdom and guidance of the MRC was invaluable

SO WHAT WAS INVOLVED?

We found ourselves in a rural setting on the south coast of Korea, responsible for the children’s unit of the Korean government’s National Tuberculosis Hospital. In this simple setting without surgical facilities, we plunged into the intricacies of the MRC’s clinical research programme. The best research is collaborative rather than competitive. For us, the wisdom and guidance of the MRC was invaluable, providing a framework for treatment, annual visits from MRC consultants and financial backing to underwrite the project. In addition, the protocols of a carefully constructed trial, set up by recognised experts ensured the ethical guidelines of the work. We were not ‘experimenting on poor Korean children’ as some accused us of, but working within the boundaries of medical knowledge at the time.

We were provided with a numbered series of sealed envelopes to be opened in sequence for each newly registered patient. These selected for us the treatment regimen for each patient – what drugs, for how long

and whether the patient's movement should be restricted or not. The outcomes had to be recorded at regular intervals and the information, along with X-rays sent to the MRC in London. Invariably there would be a long list of detailed queries on these and it is to the MRC's credit that, recognising the severe limitations of our resources (no typewriter, no secretary) they would send us two copies of the questions – one to be annotated and returned and the other for us to keep.

On one occasion a batch of X-rays (sent sea-mail) went missing. It turned up in London 18 months later. It transpired that it had been in a ship stuck in the Suez Canal during the six days war (1967). Follow-up of patients after treatment was vital to the success of the project, to ensure that observed outcomes were lasting. This involved extensive rural travel and diligent searching through urban slums. We were able to achieve approximately 95% of follow-up over periods extending 10 – 15 years.



Above: Receiving supplies donated by nearby US naval base.

OUTCOMES

Correlation of the findings with those from other centres (Bulawayo and Hong Kong) and publication of the results in relevant medical journals was organised by the MRC and the outcome was an MRC recommendation that, for the majority of patients in resource-poor settings, carefully controlled anti-TB medication without other restraint or surgical intervention was the treatment of choice. This was good news for those who could never afford surgery and good news for those who cared for them. It was gratifying to hear, some years later, of doctors in East Africa and in South India who were applying the findings of our research to their own practice.

So where did it all begin? The roots of my curiosity and the necessary attention to detail (perhaps through Latin verbs!) can be traced back to my days at WHS and for that I am profoundly grateful. 

Below: A craft school for recovering patients.

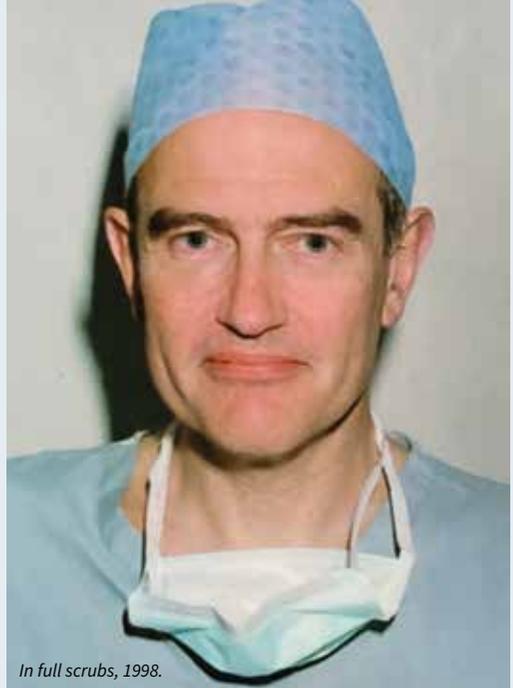


Below: A farewell gathering.





Michael as a young boy at WHS.



In full scrubs, 1998.

A LIFE IN NEUROSURGERY

By Michael Powell FRCS FRCP (1958 – 1963)

I have been asked how I became an academic neurosurgeon, from my days at WHS. Of course, I cannot resist a brief mention of my early life there!

I arrived at WHS for the Christmas Term of 1958, shortly after my eighth birthday. It was a difficult time for my family as we had just moved to live in my paternal grandmother's flat in Oxford, as my father's stellar career as a Royal Marine staff officer had just been terminated by a heart attack earlier in the year, and we had lost our rather grand grace and favour house in Exmouth. I do not know how WHS had been chosen, but presumably there was no inkling that we would be in Oxford for the remainder of my father's life. He was South African and my mother Australian and, although

they had had their secondary education in England, they had little direct experience of prep schools.

At the time there were two headmasters, Mr Meikle and the Rev Davis, possibly because of the former's ill health. Whatever, Meikle had a magnetic presence. On Saturday mornings, he entertained the youngest boys with Greek Mythology stories that I still love. He also oversaw the 'plunge' where we all had to bathe communally after games. Rev Davis was the head scout for the school. I much enjoyed scouting, especially the 'Wide Games' when we were allowed out of the school grounds unescorted, something that was otherwise completely forbidden. Mr Llewellyn then took over the scouts.

My earliest mates from my first dormitory remained friends throughout my schooldays: James Mumford, who ended up on the adjacent staircase on my first term at Oxford, and Ted Hiscocks, the son of a Southend GP, were both avid aircraft model makers, something my dad had introduced me to and which we did as much as we could, but we were not given much free time, just the odd twenty minutes or so.

Remembering those days, I often wonder how we kept clean. Apart from the 'plunge', we didn't bath much and clean shirts and underwear were issued on a weekly basis!

As someone who is obsessed with food (I was The Observer's 'Cook of the Year 1983' Runner Up), I am afraid I have almost no memories of the cuisine, except for a universal favourite 'Baby's Bottom', which was a pink jelly made with

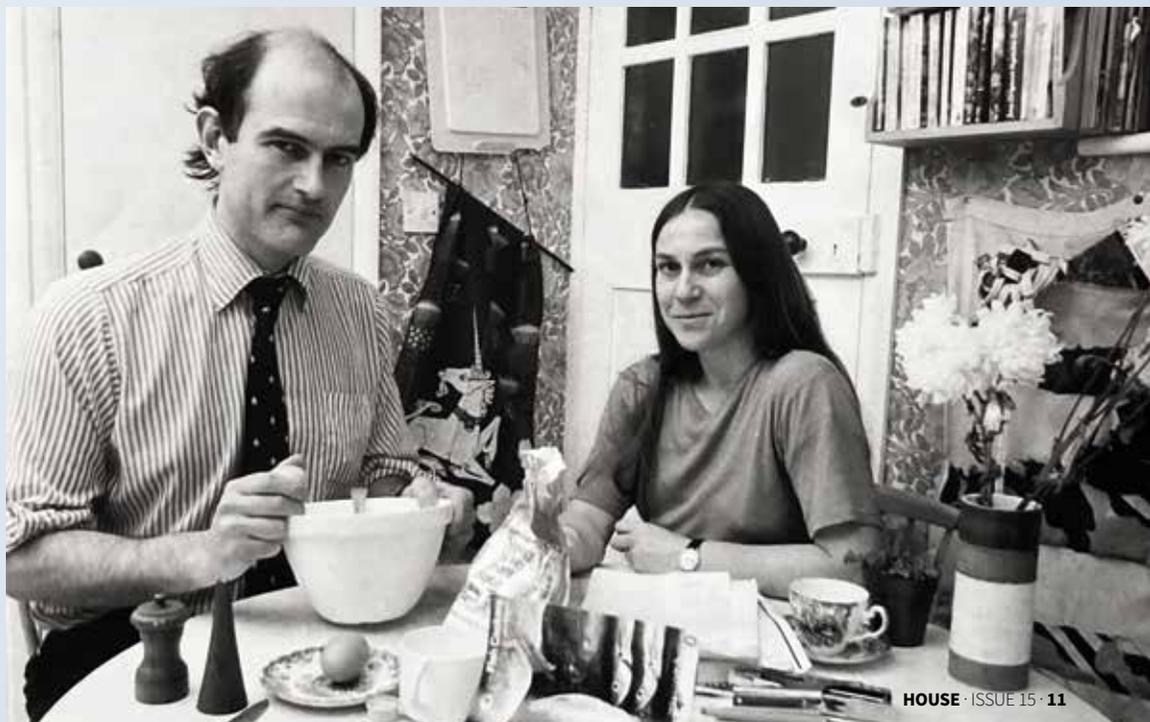
evaporated milk. It was also a mild irritation that we were not allowed chips, except on rugby or hockey match team teas. But I do remember that once or twice a term, we had to do all the washing up after meals on a Sunday. It was surprising fun.

Curiously, in these days of a pandemic, another memory was the outbreaks of measles, flu and chickenpox, the last threatening to overrun the sanatorium. Matron, in full uniform would come round every day taking our temperature. I was sent home as it was relatively near. One boy never returned, having succumbed to the virus.

We were only allowed out for a Saturday and Sunday at half-term, and two other Saturday exeats per term. At Christmas we were given a general knowledge quiz to take home, and which my father mainly did,

Remembering those days, I often wonder how we kept clean. Apart from the 'plunge', we didn't bath much and clean shirts and underwear were issued on a weekly basis!

In 1983 with my wife in a photo for GP World magazine, after being runner up for The Observer's Cook of the Year.



being keen on general knowledge. We had to write the answers from memory at the start of the Spring Term. I think I won a prize twice as well as a couple of scripture quiz prizes. I remain a repository of useless trivia as a result - blame WHS! One master, possibly Mr. Lucas, became the proud owner of a new Mini, only introduced a couple of years earlier. For some mad reason, he allowed the boys to drive it on the big upper playing field beyond the swimming pool.

I left in the summer of '63, shortly before my 13th birthday. I was the only boy to go to Wellington College, then full of sons of serving officers, being a forcing school for Sandhurst, round the corner, and Mons (the training institution for short-term commissions, for the duffers who couldn't pass A levels). For all the others, Marlborough and Winchester were very popular but I think only a couple went to Stowe from my year.

WHS prepared me well for Wellington, as I had come tenth in Common Entrance, so was in an 'accelerated' academic top class, which meant that I had seven O levels before my 14th birthday. But, I discovered

Rowing at New College, 1972.



that I was colour blind at my first medical, ruling out the Marines, so it was 'decided' that I would go into the Army. However, I had an epiphany aged 15, and decided to change to Medicine. My choice was possibly based on the extremely cliquey social life in Oxford, whereby if you weren't 'Gown', then your social groups were the other professions and most of my parents' friends were doctors.

I scraped through A levels, maybe because my father died on the first day of exams. Imagine allowing a 16-year old to take such a serious exam on the day of a major bereavement! However, I was allowed to sit Oxford Entrance (along with sixty other boys) and sailed into New College.

I did not particularly excel at Oxford, but I did meet my future wife in the 'pre-clinical medics Christmas review', a fellow medical student at St Hugh's (Oxford was strictly segregated then). She played a rabbit and I one of the lead characters, Jules (don't ask!). It was here I discovered my love of performing, and was briefly a member of OUDS. I rowed for my college and generally had a wonderful time.

I graduated in '72 with an upper second, and celebrated with a tandem ride from Nottingham to Penzance. Why? Because one of my dissection partners had a tandem in Nottingham, and the 'stoker' on the back seat had a love interest in Penzance, another girl from St Hugh's. I mention this because, on the first day, we ran out of daylight in Brackley, so hid the tandem in the bushes at the entrance of WHS, and my long-suffering mum drove out and picked us up. I went back with my wife-to-be the next day, and chatted with Mr. Llewellyn, my last visit to the school!

More than half the hundred-strong Oxford pre-clinical year went on to the newly expanded Oxford Clinical School, but I had had enough of Oxford, and went to the Middlesex Hospital Medical School (now a part of University College) in London.

During my clinical three years, I spent much of the time building motorcycles, and loafing around, but passed my final MB BS (London) in '75 with the intention of becoming an orthopaedic surgeon. I had realised that my boyhood of aircraft and motorcycle building could be put to good professional use.

In those days, a junior hospital doctor's life was very peripatetic, as one chased the best jobs that led into whatever specialty that one had chosen. I spent only six months in London, then to Norwich, doing pre-registration house jobs; the second, an extraordinary period of intense work being 'on call' every other night and weekend.

The weekend shift was from Friday morning to Monday evening, with little sleep. I loved it!

Moving onto Oxford, I was a casualty officer there, then taught anatomy for one year, a standard career move as it set one up to pass 'Primary' FRCS. Also, my fiancée, who was one year behind me, was now working in Oxford and had free lodging, something anatomy teachers did not.

To get into surgery, one needed 'fellowship' as the exam to get FRCS was called. In those days it was a general exam, with a fearsome 9% first-time pass rate, and one's best chance was to get onto a basic surgical rotation that also gave the required periods of time in both 'general' surgery and two of the specialities. Some of the best were in Bristol, so off I went.

The unwanted job in the two year rotation was neurosurgery. There had been no contact with the neurosurgeon in Med School, possibly because ours was a 'difficult' character with extremely unfashionable views, and an explosive temper that led to extreme tantrums (I was to take his place, and the anaesthetists thought my calm demeanour rather dull).

The specialty was, in any case, tiny, there being fewer than one hundred in the whole of the UK and Ireland, so the specialty was perceived as having poor prospects.

Bristol was, however, different. The head of the department was one of the most mercurial and charismatic surgeons that I was to work with, and the number two was equally charismatic, albeit in a totally different way. I had hit the jackpot as neurosurgery had just become very scientific with the invention of the Computer Scanner (CT Scanner) and Bristol had the third in the UK. Suddenly, we had a much more

accurate way of planning surgery and success and survival rates went up considerably.

I loved the challenge of neurosurgery. Earlier in the rotation, in my

first job in orthopaedics, I had been elevated after a couple of months to the middle rank of registrar and had three personal 'unsupervised' operating lists a week. It's unimaginable now, but I did a lot of surgery and cleared the waiting list, much to my boss's astonishment. Perhaps coping well with orthopaedics at such a junior stage, I realised that I might get a bit bored.

Anyway, when I asked my charismatic bosses about careers in neurosurgery, they suggested that if I passed the Fellowship, which I did the following spring, I should take the registrar position as the incumbent was off to the next stage in the career ladder, as senior registrar (S.R.) in Scotland.

So I became a neurosurgeon. I only spent three more, wonderful, years in Bristol, including a year of research (then a pre-requisite to surgical advancement), getting married, having our first daughter and buying a house. Then I moved as senior registrar to the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery in London.

I had hit the jackpot as neurosurgery had just become very scientific with the invention of the Computer Scanner (CT Scanner) and Bristol had the third in the UK.

‘Queen Square’ is a post-graduate teaching hospital, the oldest neurology hospital in the world and also the birthplace of neurosurgery. Again, I was lucky. My three bosses didn’t get on, but they all liked me and I got a vast amount to do, wrote some ‘papers’ for the neurosurgery journals (a vital step in the career ladder) and generally got known in the small UK Community; (there being only 100 consultants, including one woman).

The most senior of the three, Prof Lindsay Simon, ‘the Great Scot’, was probably, then, the best clinical surgical neuroscientist in the world, a masterful technical surgeon and a role model in his meticulous patient care, all of which stood me in great stead.

A new consultant post was created at both the Middlesex and Queen Square in ‘85, and I leapfrogged a number of more senior contemporaries into the post. I was 34 years old; commanding my previous mates was an interesting exercise in tact!

Then as now, it is one thing to get a consultancy, but then you have to carve out a specialty interest. I did a great deal of general neurosurgery in my early consultant years as my senior colleagues spent a lot of time on the World lecture circuit, but it was in the small world of pituitary disease that I made my name.

I had studied the pituitary gland in some detail as an Oxford undergrad and then at the Middlesex as a student. The senior endocrinologist, Sir John Nabarro, who was a pioneer in the emerging world of neuroendocrinology (pituitary disease), and his PhD students were to be the academic Professors by the time I returned. I had also been given key advice by a leading German pituitary surgeon. “Michael, don’t tell neurosurgeons about your results, tell the endocrinologists.” At the Middlesex, I got on really well with the new professor, who had been an SR in ‘73. I did well with the highly technical operation for endocrine pituitary tumours, done through the nose, and before long he was telling all his academic

colleagues around London about ‘his’ new surgeon. The endocrine work ballooned.

Pituitary tumours can compress the nerves to the eyes within the skull, causing visual loss and worse. The lead neurologist in this field was a senior professor at Queen Square. When I suggested that I join his monthly pituitary clinic for his patients, he was delighted, and before long I got all the ophthalmic cases as well. He had believed that the surgery only stabilised and stopped visual loss, but when I showed him that about 90% got improvement and over 50% returned to normal, he was delighted.

In the late ‘80’s and early 90’s, there were few surgeons operating on these tumours through the nose, but I was doubly fortunate, in that I had been trained in both this trans-nasal approach and the ‘cranial’ route by the ‘Great Scot’. But the icing on the cake was that Queen Square had a constant throughput of distinguished international neurosurgical visitors, so I was able to go and visit the best centres in the world and see their practice. Often they would make you a visiting professor, something that surely enhanced one’s CV. These neurosurgical greats often became close friends.

I also discovered I had a knack of training young surgeons in surgical technique, as a stepwise process. By 2010, I had trained two thirds of the UK pituitary neurosurgeons – an achievement of which I am rather proud. Incidentally, the old way was that the boss would show you a couple of times how to do something, then you would do the op yourself, whilst the boss went off to his private practice. I had quickly become the most popular trainer in our group. Training was also changing as it had been realised that surgical training was more than an apprenticeship and there was now a sub-committee at the nearby Royal College of Surgeons, to oversee the process.

At the millennium I became the junior member on that training committee, the SAC (Neurosurgery)



Last trip to Uzbekistan in 2019, with the endocrine department and English friend Prof Ashley Grossman.

of the Joint Committee for Surgical Training of the Intercollegiate Board (i.e. of the English, Edinburgh, Dublin and Glasgow Surgical Colleges). The early 2000s were a turbulent time for training as the government was implementing many changes, to streamline medical training as well as pressures from the European Working Time Directive, which severely limited on-call hours. The SAC weathered all this, and along with Government diktat, introduced continuous training and National Selection into the specialty, making the playing field much more level. I also became an examiner for the specialty Fellowship in Neurosurgery (FRCS (SN)), a third-tier end of training exam that was being introduced at the time I became a consultant.

I ended up as Chair of the SAC and senior examiner, both for the FRCS (SN) and the European equivalent, based in Prague.

I also had discovered a love of travelling for work. In the late '90's I had been invited to Cairo for a week of operating at the Maahdi Hospital, going with my anaesthetist friend with whom I've a brilliant rapport (we still meet up every week). Then a Swiss mate asked me to go regularly to Tripoli in Libya; I went with the same anaesthetist and a colleague. We were just setting up an 'exit' exam for their trainees when

Gadhafi fell. The final most satisfying achievement in travelling and training was an invitation to Tashkent in Uzbekistan, where I and an endocrinology chum have set up a National Pituitary Centre. We have been going over almost annually since 2005, apart from Covid. I have performed well over 200 operations there, my best UK trainees now having taken over the surgery, and I have had three of their surgeons with me in Queen Square, two of them for three months, and have enjoyed their wonderful hospitality and friendship. It is a fascinating country with a huge cultural history.

I retired in 2013 at 63 years old, although have continued the Uzbek trips. It is a curious reflection of NHS life that when your pension pot is at its maximum, and you have reached the top of the pay scale, they cannot wait to get rid of you. My European and American friends soldier on into their late 70s and early 80s!

I am still an 'Honorary' at UCLH, but am no longer validated by the new NHS system, so can only advise. The Uz don't care! Anyway, retiring gives me more time for my many sideline passions; cooking, my saxophone, my old cars and still model aircraft – and of course my wife, three daughters and two grandchildren. H

LIFE AS A VETERINARY STUDENT

By Housian William Heaton (2007 – 2012)



What made you decide to study veterinary science?

I spent much of my childhood caring for the family dogs, chickens, sheep and horses which is when I developed my empathetic nature and love of animals. During my time at Winchester House, I bred my own rare breed chickens and much to my family's amusement, became the school resident expert on anything to do with ailing chickens!

My passion for science was kindled at Winchester House, thanks to the engaging and exciting teachers. I clearly remember the fascinating experiments we did in the 'Lunar Society' run by Mr Thompson every week.

This passion for science stayed with me whilst at Warwick School, so the love of animals and science put me on a clear path to read Veterinary Medicine at university.

I was lucky enough to spend many of my weekends eventing my mare, Milly, with considerable success at British Eventing. This gave me the opportunity to work alongside top equine veterinary surgeons, who were always supportive of my future career goals, and invited me to see practice with them.

Where are you studying?

I have completed my fifth and final year at the University of Surrey, School of Veterinary Medicine.

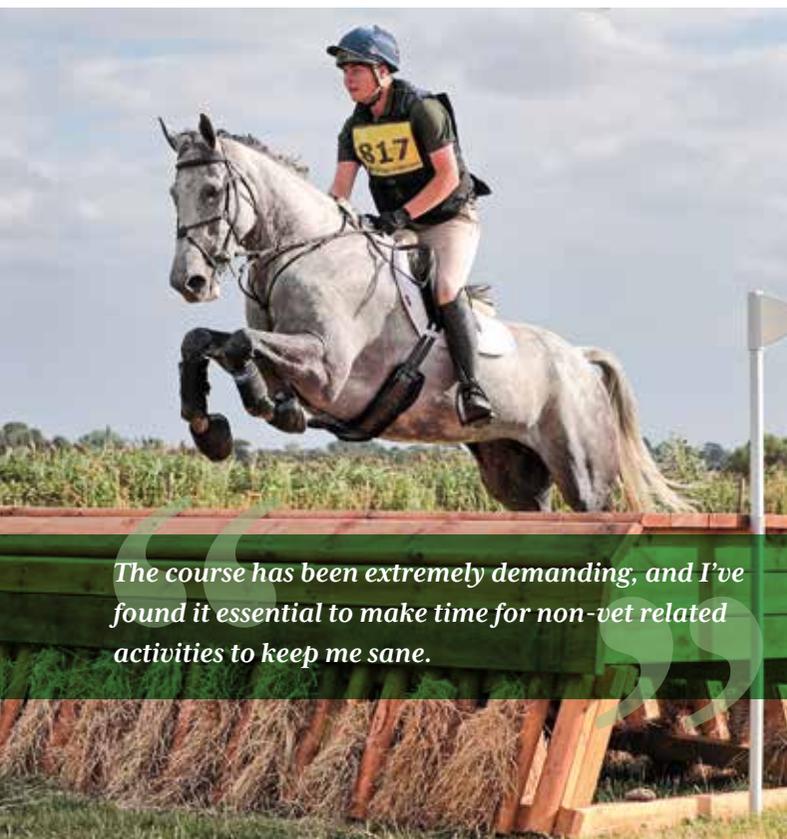
What did you get out of the course?

I've really enjoyed my time at Surrey and can't believe how quickly it flew by. The first two years were focussed on learning the anatomy and physiology of all common species, as well as the complex pathology that may affect them. The practical work was varied and extensive from day one of the course, complementing the theoretical lecture-based learning.



Third year was one of my favourite years because the lectures and practicals became more clinically relevant and I really started to feel like a vet; learning surgical skills as well as being able to formulate treatment plans. The tail end of third year and much of fourth year were impacted by covid, with lectures moving online and practicals being in small face-to-face groups.

The course was extremely demanding, and I found it essential to make time for non-vet related activities to keep me sane. Since starting at university, I've played Polo which was a welcome distraction from the intense timetable.



The course has been extremely demanding, and I've found it essential to make time for non-vet related activities to keep me sane.



Left: In action during a British Eventing competition.

Above: Gaining experience across a vast variety of species.

The importance of work experience?

Work experience is of paramount importance, contributing massively to your development from student to qualified veterinary surgeon. The course requires 38 weeks of extra-mural studies which must be undertaken outside of term time, over the five years. This essentially means most holiday time is devoted to work experience, which can be quite a shock for some. The benefits of work experience are numerous, from hands on practical experience in a clinical setting, to soft skills such as communication and teamwork – every placement is a learning opportunity. Through no fault of the university, there simply isn't time to teach everything required of a veterinary surgeon during term time, which is where work experience fills in the gaps.

During the first two years, placements are generally not in a clinical setting but based on a farm, yard, cattery and kennels. Undertaking this unpaid, often physically exhausting work is vital for developing your resilience and prepares you for the clinical years to come. From third year onwards, placements are undertaken across the whole spectrum of different veterinary practices, with a degree of choice allowing you to focus more on your interests.

What do you now hope to specialise in?

I would like to spend some time working in an equine veterinary practice and then go on to pursue an internship in an equine referral hospital. The beauty of veterinary medicine is there are so many paths to follow, with almost endless possibilities. H





ENGINEERING MY OWN PATH

By **Sam Keating** (2004 – 2012)

After leaving Winchester House in 2012 at the end of Year 6, I went to Royal Latin School where I took my GCSEs and A levels. I am now in my fourth year of five years studying for an Undergraduate Masters in Mechanical Engineering at Loughborough University.

Having been predominantly STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) focussed throughout my schooling, it was of no surprise that I wanted to study for a degree in one of the fields. Initially I looked at Physics, however, I wanted a practical based degree that dealt with the real world rather than idealised systems. This is what led me to Engineering.

As a sub-discipline, Mechanical Engineering has one of the broadest ranges of subjects covered, allowing study and specialisation into a wide field of

areas including those with specialist degrees such as Aerospace, Materials, Systems and Automotive. Following the same ethos that led me to taking English Literature at A level alongside Maths and Physics, I chose Mechanical Engineering to keep my options open. The saying ‘A jack of all trades is a master of none, but often times better than a master of one’ comes to mind.

The enthusiastic approach he [my WHS chemistry teacher and Head of Science Mick Thompson] had to science and discovery was very simple yet effective, have a play but make sure you write it down.

My focus on STEM comes from many influences; certainly my parents had a large effect on me in this regard as well as a number of teachers along the way

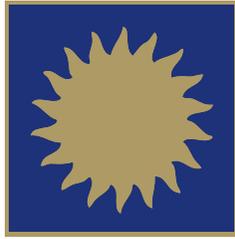
most memorably my WHS chemistry teacher and Head of Science, Mick Thompson. The enthusiastic approach he had to science and discovery was very simple yet effective, have a play but make sure you write it down.

The main area of engineering of interest to me is human integration, using technology to increase the physical performance of humanity. The primary applications of this are in sport and defence, the former being a large factor in my selection of Loughborough as an institution. Outside of the academic course, the hall system at Loughborough is unique to the university and has great impact on most students. I had an impact on this system in my own way as Hall Treasurer, overseeing the hall finances during 2020-2021. I also started rowing when I joined the university and have represented the university at local races, the BUCS regatta and BUCS Head.

Over the first two years of the course a general grounding is given in fundamental engineering disciplines; Fluid Mechanics, Thermodynamics, Mechanics and Dynamics, Material Science, electronic integration and design tasks run by industry. In my third year I had the opportunity to specialise with more in-depth modules in Energy Systems, Vibration and Noise, Ballistics and Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD), alongside my dissertation. I had the opportunity to propose my own dissertation title 'Modelling of External Shockwave Obstacle Interaction' using Star-CCM+, a commercial CFD software to investigate the effect of shockwaves caused by explosives on structural elements of buildings and shelters for military and anti-terrorist applications.

I have another year left on my degree, including a placement for this academic year, hopefully, before returning to Loughborough for my final year of study. [H](#)





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MY OLYMPIC GAMES



Housian, Olympic medallist and front cover star **James Rudkin (2002 – 2007)** looks back at his Olympic rollercoaster ride.

Twelve months since the Olympic Games seems a good time to look back and reflect on the greatest emotional rollercoaster of my life. The feeling of competing at my first Olympic Games was like nothing I've ever experienced. From the excitement and suspense of the village, the white-hot heat and physical pain of competing, managing the long wait between races and the torrent of elation, disappointment and emptiness when it was all over, few human experiences can surely compare.

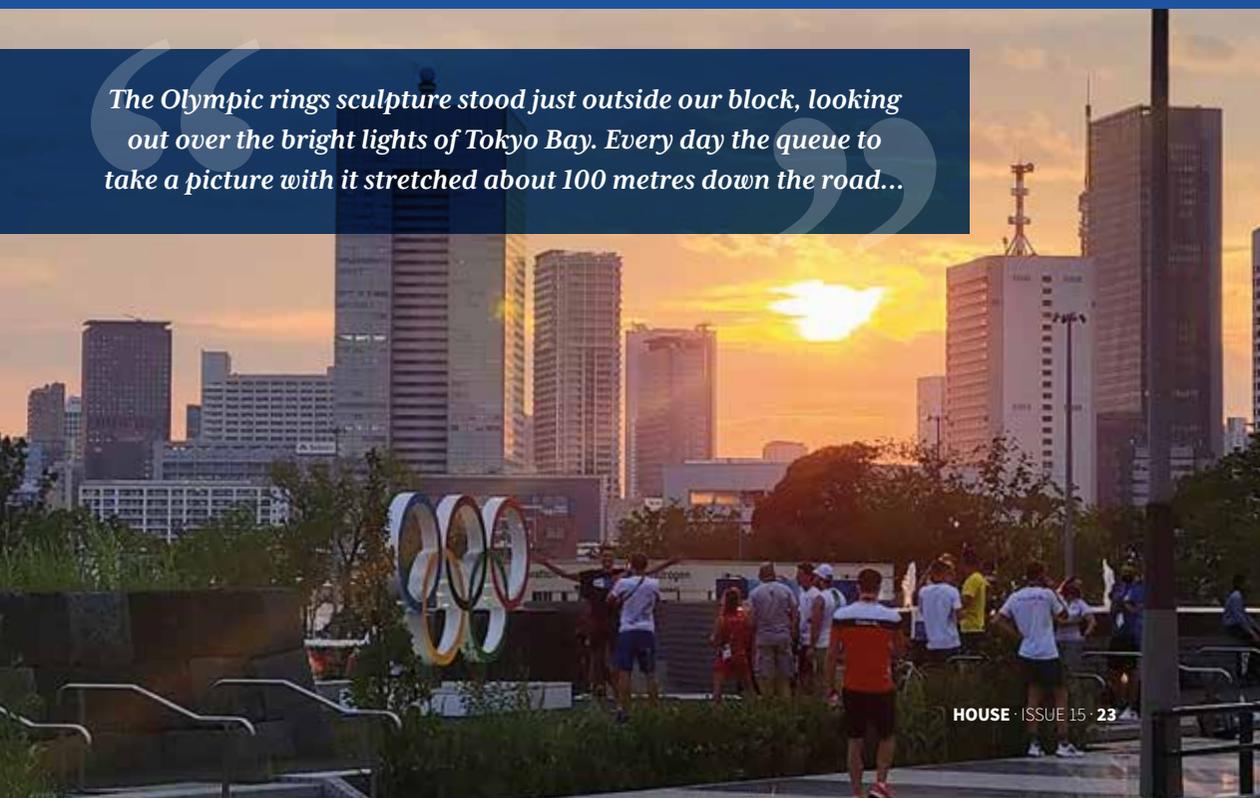
The pressure to perform was intense, but the long march to the start-line was by far the most draining part. We'd spent an entire year petrified of getting Covid, in the full knowledge that our Olympics would be over before it had even begun. We'd

experienced teammates struck down and struggling to re-find form; seeing their aspirations crushed before our eyes made us grateful every day, that our own dreams stayed alive.

We took Covid tests, sometimes three times a day for two weeks, before we flew and, once in Tokyo, daily testing became part of the routine. The village was a surreal experience: it was a sea of movement, bright colours and restless energy; constant streams of athletes filled the streets. It was perched on a small artificial island in Tokyo Bay, barely more than a kilometre square and the avenues constantly hummed with music and activity; huge national flags hung from the side of apartment blocks, gently fluttering in the sea breeze. The Olympic rings sculpture stood just outside our block, looking out over the bright lights of Tokyo Bay. Every day the queue to take a picture with it stretched about 100 metres down the road but I eventually managed to get to the front and grab a few photos that will always remind me of those heady summer days.

For two weeks we existed inside a sort of fish-tank. TV cameras perched on top of skyscrapers surrounding us broadcast 24/7 streams of the village from a distance, while heavily armed Coast Guard Patrol ships circled the island. The food hall was colossal, the size of a supermarket. Serving stations stretched from end to end along the walls, while a sea of tables with plexiglass screens filled the centre of the huge open space. The food was varied and delicious, from sushi to curry and Italian. The staff were incredibly friendly and their faces behind their masks lit up as we approached each feeding station, clutching trays in our plastic gloves. I even bumped into an old Japanese friend from Stowe who, after finishing school, had ended up working for the catering company! All movement around the village was controlled by your accreditation hung round your neck. If we lost it, we were told, our life in the village would become distinctly complicated and the soldiers patrolling the perimeter highlighted the point. I quickly learnt from the Olympic veterans among us how to artfully wear the sling pendant so as to minimize it dangling in my food.

The Olympic rings sculpture stood just outside our block, looking out over the bright lights of Tokyo Bay. Every day the queue to take a picture with it stretched about 100 metres down the road...



The regatta course itself was much like any other, apart from the relentless heat and burning sun. I soon got used to sweating through all of my kit and always wearing a long-sleeve top, hat and sunglasses. Better to sweat than burn was my mantra.

The rowing lake was pretty bumpy from the wash of other crews but we were used to this from previous experience and we soon found our rhythm thumping up and down the lake getting used to the water.

The racing itself was white hot in its intensity and unforgiving of mistakes as we soon discovered after our heat and repechage, neither of which went to plan. In both races we struggled to find the best of which we were capable. We'd lost our confidence over the course of the first two races, and, while going into the final, things looked bad, I knew that

if we did what we were capable of we could turn it around and bring home a medal. It took going back to basic principles, good rowing technique like we'd practised since we'd first picked up an oar, which would take us to the podium.

I only really knew what had happened after we crossed the finish line. I thought we'd got silver, but Germany had got through us on the last stroke. There was an immediate flurry of emotions...

The final itself is still a bit of a blur. I've watched the race back once or twice, but it has since disappeared from the internet due to broadcasting rights issues, so all I have is my memories. I remember thinking to myself, look at the

man in-front and do my job, not particularly inspiring I know, but my job in the stern of the boat was to set rhythm and length, give the guys behind something consistent to follow.

I only really knew what had happened after we crossed the finish line. I thought we'd got silver, but





Germany had got through us on the last stroke. There was an immediate flurry of emotions and feelings in those minutes after the race: intense immediate physical pain, shortness of breath, blurry vision. But also despair, happiness, loss, pride, camaraderie, numbness, and finally, relief. Relief that the emotional and physical torture of the last two years was over, and I had something to show for it.

I'd dreamed of winning gold, I'd done everything that I thought I could to win and it hadn't been enough. In hindsight, of course, there were more stones I could have turned in order to win, but it was no use worrying about that there and then. That soul-searching could be done later, in following weeks and months. I was thankfully relatively quickly able to see the positives, while still appreciating the negatives and working out how to master them. More work was yet to be done. If I was to get a next time, I now knew the ride I was in for. [H](#)



NINE TEEN 46 A FINE YEAR FOR SCHOLARS

By
Martin
Roberts

Anyone who has visited Winchester House and walked down the Oak Corridor cannot fail to have been impressed by the rows of Honours Boards lining the walls on the way to Chapel. They go right back to the 1870s, recording the names of all who have successfully faced the challenge of scholarship examinations. Nowadays, it is possible to win a scholarship in many fields: academic, music, art, sport, information technology, drama, performing arts and all-rounder. This was not always so, however.

Before the Second World War, most scholarships were for academic excellence, including papers in Latin and Greek (including Verse Composition) as well as in every other subject. They nearly always carried the prize of a totally free education, subject to the maintenance of rigorously high standards, along with the responsibility of carrying the flag for the reputation of the school. Some nearly fifty years ago, this author can remember the ex-naval Headmaster of a Direct Grant School on the cusp of becoming fully private announcing to the Assembly "Scholarships are the Blue Riband of education. From the ranks of Scholars we might expect the Oxbridge scholars of the future to be selected." In 1977, I congratulated a boy at the prep school in which I taught for winning a Music Scholarship at Lancing, reminding him that he was unlikely to have a more financially profitable day in the future, since he had won five years of education which amounted to £800 a year, total £4000 for two days gruelling and nerve-

wracking endeavour. He repaid the trust by winning a place at Oxford five years later...

In 1946, education was in the middle of the first massive upheaval of so many. The 1944 Butler Education Act had introduced the dreaded Eleven-Plus exam, failure in which condemned the unfortunate to a qualifications-starved black hole. WHS magazines of the 1950s abound in the angst of Heads and parents about falling into this particular oblivion. Without wanting to take anything away from the huge efforts made by today's scholars, this was real pressure for many.

This included the Headmaster and staff, of course. Telford Hayman had been Headmaster since 1914, developing the art of winning scholarships to a finely-tuned skill. Most exams still took place in May, so he arranged reading weeks in the Easter holidays and passed on his skills and techniques to the candidates. No Roman gladiators were more highly-trained, no racing pigeons more caringly nurtured. Hayman and Ronald Davis after him were even known to take candidates by car to their senior schools to sit the papers.

Winchester House had an excellent record in winning scholarships; hence the Honours Boards. Some called it by the pejorative word "cramming"; most respected Hayman as a manager who could bring his charges to their peak at exactly the right time and was prepared to use any correct means to do so.



Mr & Mrs Hayman and 7 scholarship boys (1946).

In 1946, four short years before his death in harness, Hayman's boys won ten academic scholarships (eleven, including one boy who appears to have been successful in 1946 but not to have taken up his place until 1947).

Here they are:

N J Hudson at *Leighton Park*

D L Jennings at *Cranleigh*

G Hamber at *King's, Canterbury*

J A Bird at *Oundle*

P J Russell at *Oundle*

P H Oswald at *Eton*

M D Cowley at *Charterhouse*

T C V Bryers at *Charterhouse*

P M Thomas at *Marlborough*

P J Symons at *Royal Naval College, Dartmouth*

...and in 1946 for 1947

M S Beazeley at *Harrow (exhibition)*

So what befell these ten scholars in later life? A delve into several decades of WHS Magazines and a few enquiries to their senior schools has revealed much but left a number of unanswered questions...

N J Hudson reported the birth of a daughter, Caroline, in 1958. He was working at Heinemann's in 1959 and in Australia by 1961. In 1990-1, he was running his own publishing company in Melbourne.

David Liston Jennings took a full part in life at Cranleigh. He was Captain of Squash and Shooting and much involved in scientific societies and 2nd XV Rugby. In 1951, after National Service, he went up to Magdalene College, Cambridge to read medicine, followed by clinical training at the Middlesex Hospital, where he was awarded the Broderip Scholarship. He married Melba in 1957 and his son, Timothy, was born in 1961 with daughter, Alexandra following in 1962.

David joined a GP practice in Upton on Severn in 1960 and a year later became a partner. He remained in this practice for the rest of his working life, becoming a pillar of the local community. He died in 2016, two years before Melba. During this period, he oversaw the amalgamation of two single practices into one purpose-built surgery and helped raise the money for a specialist diabetic centre.

George Hamber had been expected to follow a career in civil engineering, but his goals changed during National Service in the Royal Engineers from 1952 to 1954, during which period he became a committed Christian. Jesus College, Cambridge agreed to a change of course to read Medicine after qualifying in biology. Then three years at St. George's Hospital were followed by becoming FRCS at Edinburgh in 1966.

Two three-year tours in Ruanda, for the Church Mission Society followed, in idyllic but politically dangerous surroundings, until George returned to Britain in 1973. From 1974 until retirement in 1998, he served as a GP in Eastbourne. He has lived in York with Grace, his wife of fifty-eight years since 2007, glad to be near their two daughters and their extended families.

Jos Bird remembers sitting his Scholarship papers at WHS and is still glad he was paying attention when, by one of those coincidences for which we all hope but rarely receive, Hayman happened to use in Assembly the very text about which the Scripture exam was based. After National Service and a Commission in the Royal Artillery in the Korean War, he went up to Cambridge in 1954 to read Law. He then became a solicitor in Bury St Edmunds from 1960 until 1996, combining this with a decade of service in the Territorial Army. He has been married for fifty-seven years and is the father of four children, all boys. Jos holds fond memories of Michael Llewellyn, who made him Captain of Cricket in 1946.

Pat Russell won a place to study Law at Trinity College, Dublin in 1951. He became engaged to Jennifer Lind in 1958. Before his death, he was living in Cornwall.

M D Cowley won a place to study Physics and Maths at St John's, Cambridge in 1951 and in 1960 was a Research Fellow at the same college, studying the behaviour of gases at 15,000 degrees Celsius. In 1964, he reported the birth of his fourth son, Peter.

T C V Bryers is on the Charterhouse records but at the time of writing has not communicated any information.

Peter Thomas chose Natural Sciences at Marlborough and was accepted to read Chemistry at Exeter College, Oxford on condition that he passed his Prelim exams and did National Service first. With the exams passed and two years in the Royal Artillery with a commission (posted to British Army of the Rhine), he went up to Oxford in 1953 and graduated in 1957.

Peter joined Shell Petroleum from Oxford and worked for thirty-one years on the chemical side of the business, enjoying expatriate postings to Paris and Brussels. He now lives in retirement in Godalming and is pleased to have a granddaughter currently studying at Exeter College, Oxford.

Patrick Symons made a stellar start to his career at Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth, reporting in 1951 that he had passed out in Class I, winning the King's Telescope and the Doctor Common's Memorial Prize for Seamanship and the Seamanship Prize. He also passed First from HMS Devonshire, the cadet training cruiser. Service as an Observer in the Fleet Air Arm in a number of roles was followed by command of HMS Torquay and a number of senior staff and planning roles until in 1976 he was Commissioning Captain of the new Type 42 destroyer HMS Birmingham. His final seagoing command was the recommissioned light carrier HMS Bulwark.

As Rear-Admiral, Patrick served as Commander British Naval Staff and Naval Attache in Washington DC during the Falklands War. He became Vice-Admiral in March 1985 and served NATO in Naples before his final posting to Brussels as British Military Representative at NATO HQ. Sir Patrick Symons KBE retired from the Navy in 1992 and was a much-loved President of the HMS Bulwark, Albion and Centaur Association until his death in February 2021. He is survived by Lady Elizabeth, whom he married in 1961.

Mark Sebastian Beazeley had a varied career after Harrow. He visited WHS in about 1970 after founding Touroplan, a firm publishing high-quality local tour guides, and by 1975-6 was involved with the writing and promotion of a record "Happy Birthday, Father Christmas".

Some of these paragraphs are only stubs, which hardly do justice to their subjects. If anyone has any more information to add, please let us know. Nicknames will remain confidential!

There indeed they are, several of them thriving and active and contributing to life to the full. Thanks are due to George Hamber especially, who shared his research generously. So that's where they go when they leave our gates as pupils for the last time, in those days perhaps throwing their caps over the Brackley Viaduct or surreptitiously inscribing their initials on some piece of wood or stone to add to the history of Winchester House.

We salute them all. 

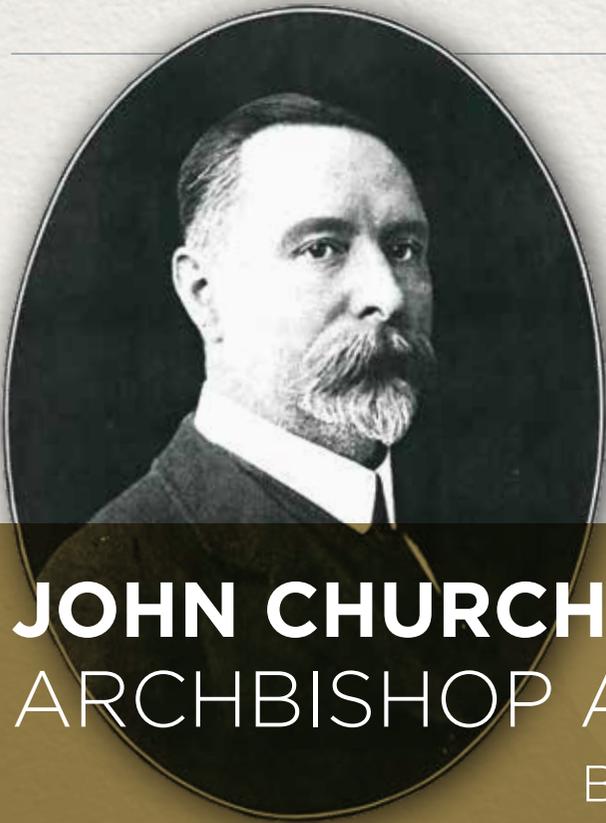
Having read Philip Oswald's article in Issue 14 of House magazine, **Tim Bryers (1944-46)** sent 'House' this photograph of the 1946 Scholarship Study Group taken at the Upper Lodge in the April of that year.

Back row: Sebastian Beazeley, David Jennings, George Hamber, Philip Russell, Philip Oswald

Middle row: Martin Cowley, Mrs Cowley, CHT Hayman, PM Thomas

Front row: Tim Bryers and Jo Bird





JOHN CHURCHILL SIBLEY ARCHBISHOP AND SAINT

By Martin Roberts

In the WHS whole school photographs of the late Edwardian period there is always a gentleman, dapperly dressed, with a King George the Fifth full set of beard and moustache, gazing serenely at some unseen object in the middle distance. This is the music master of the Leachman period, John Churchill Sibley, Doctor of Music and, as we shall see, much more.

Sibley was born in Crewkerne on 12th December 1858 and showed musical talent from an early age, becoming a teacher and organist at Clifton Grammar School in Warwickshire, where he practised on a small harmonium with the bellows disconnected in order to avoid making a noise, and then rising through a series of appointments to positions as organist at Chelsea and Hampstead. From 1902 to 1914, the record is missing but at least the latter part of that period he spent teaching music at Winchester House when it was sited in Deal.

Sibley had another musical life, which must have made him something of a catch for Bryant and Leachman. He was appointed Director of the Queen's Music (presumably Queen Victoria's), and in 1891 became the first Head of Music at Goldsmith's College. He was also Organist to the Royal Albert Hall Festival Concerts between 1888 and 1918. He must have been a regular passenger on the railway system for he held other appointments in Buxton and Harrogate as well as regularly conducting at the Queen's Hall in London.

His composing and writing career was also prolific and included a number of books on musical theory and a large body of music, not least among which was "Non Nobis Solum", written as the WHS school song. This enjoined the pupils to:

**Work, boys, work, boys, striving to excel;
If we do our best we know All will be well...**

The effect of this exhortation on the boys is unknown...

The full words and score of this song are given in “The House on the Hill” as well as the words to “The Boys in White” written by Hilda Leachman and scored by Sibley (“But none, we know, will be found to shirk/His part in this great Empire’s work.”).

When war broke out in 1914, Sibley was too old for active service and did not join the general exodus of staff to the armed forces, but took up a post in Edgware. Thereafter, his career was to take a new and unexpected turn.

In the years following the First World War, spiritual matters seem to have engaged Sibley’s interest to a great degree and he joined the American Catholic Church, which had been founded

by Prince-Abbot Joseph III (Vilatte) in 1915 and was then being led by Archbishop Frederick Lloyd. The American Catholic Church had no ecclesiastical or organisational connection to the Roman Catholic Church. Sibley was ordained as a priest in the ACC in 1924.

Retirement from the active musical world in 1929 was followed by the appointment of Sibley as Archbishop Metropolitan of the Orthodox Catholic Church in the British Empire and Missionary Archbishop and Vicar General of the Order of Antioch in England. From his home in West Chelsea, he participated in ecumenical activities which were intended to strengthen the ties between a number of minority churches.

Sibley appealed for £15,000 to restore Minster Abbey on the Island of Thanet, Kent, which was on the site of a Benedictine convent founded in 670 by King Egbert of Kent. He intended that this would eventually

become a National Centre of Christian Fellowship under the aegis of the Order of Antioch and would become a centre of dialogue between Eastern and Western Christian denominations.

Sibley was obviously possessed of great energy and determination in these later years, as he also established an Intercollegiate University which offered degrees to clergy from a wide range of denominations. However, this did not prosper and eventually faded away.

Sibley was, by the standards of his time, a flamboyant character who enjoyed his vestments and his titles. He is recalled as a perfect gentleman with immaculate manners, dressed in black with black spats, a purple stock and a wide-brimmed hat with rosette,

frequenting the Redcliffe Arms in Fulham and generally well-liked. One exception, however, was a young lady reporter from the popular newspaper John Bull, which was commonly acknowledged as “the gutter press”. Apparently, Sibley was enticed into helping this reporter, who later ran a campaign against him and his activities, which caused so much stress that it was alleged to have hastened the death of Sibley’s wife and

greatly hindered his attempts to found a religious community.

On 15th December 1938, after a number of years of prostate trouble, John Churchill Sibley died. He was buried in High Barnet cemetery and was shortly afterwards raised to the ranks of the Blessed Saints of God. To this day, he remains almost certainly the only Archbishop with a connection to Winchester House and certainly the only Saint, of any denomination. 

When war broke out in 1914, Sibley was too old for active service and did not join the general exodus of staff to the armed forces, but took up a post in Edgware. Thereafter, his career was to take a new and unexpected turn.

M Rice's Recollections of School (1966-1969)

The elderly man turned to me.

- 'Shall I tell you how I became an usher?'

- 'No, Fred! No!'

The scene was Matron's sitting-room. The time, one evening fifty-five years ago. I had called in to collect my tweed jacket, which now had leather elbow patches like a *real* schoolmaster's jacket. Mrs O'Sullivan, Fred Bate and I were each holding a glass of whisky-and-water. I had wanted to hear what Fred was poised to tell me. But his friend cut him short. Whatever the story was, she had heard it often enough; for me, the opportunity to hear it was not to be repeated.

How I myself became an usher need be no mystery. During my first year at Oxford it became clear that I would need an additional source of funds in order to complete my degree. When I first considered the possibility of taking a year out, my friend Richard Lambley, the eldest of three brothers to pass through WHS, spoke well of the school and suggested that I apply there. As it happened, Michael Llewellyn was about to advertise for an assistant master to teach 'general subjects' – not so much a jack of all trades as a general dogsbody. I had O level passes in the subjects

I was likely to be asked to teach and hoped they would be adequate. Llew – may I call him that now? – drove to my college to collect me and drove me back afterwards, the interview taking place formally at the school and informally on the journey.

The school was generous to me, both during the full year that I spent on the staff and subsequently, during my last two years as an undergraduate, when I was welcomed back at the end of each term to help out, not least by being the responsible adult when others adjourned to 'The Plough' after their weekly staff meeting. I cannot overstate the kindly guidance of senior colleagues – nor, on occasion, their heroic tolerance of my shortcomings and imbecilities. Donald Simpson taught me how to accompany the Psalter and gave me the all-round experience I needed to supplement my student grant as a parish organist – yes, this modest accomplishment paid for the groceries each week after I returned to my degree.

To my form, the Remove B of 1966-1967, I offer my apologies; you deserved much better of me. I should have made your education more enjoyable than it was. How on earth did we survive all that Latin? Well, Andrew, Anthony, David, Julian, Justin, Michael, Nick, Peter, Pete, Robin, Simon and Tim, you are now – dare I say it? – senior citizens. Do you ever think back to the Geography lesson when you took it into your heads to play dodgems with your desks? It must have been almost a minute before Dick Vernon looked in to find out what was causing the disturbance to his own lesson in the room below and to calm you down, while I stood helplessly by. I have other memories of my time in Brackley, none of them mischievous (save, possibly, the story of Molly Matthews' corsets) and not all of them involve boys who wore Billings and Edmonds' brown abominations. But if the dodgems still amuse you, all well and good. At this distance in time, they still amuse me. And the best school motto of all – that we were not born for ourselves alone – has been a guide to me throughout my career. H

BEYOND THE SCHOOL GATES



CHRIS SMYTH (1963-68)

Having left Winchester House for Uppingham in 1968, it was with enormous pleasure that I returned in 1974, this time on the other side of the desks as a teacher (or “gappie”). Two terms

teaching at WHS was a most fulfilling and rewarding experience for me, but I very much hope that my inexperience did not damage the academic careers of my then pupils – some of whom may be reading this now! Interestingly, at least three boys at WHS at the time were the sons of my own teachers at Uppingham.

However, a place at Exeter University beckoned and having gained a law degree, I sacrificed my fledgling teaching career at the altar of mammon to take up a career as a solicitor. Working for a practice based in Oxford, I ran the firm’s branch office in the delightful market town of Stow-on-the-Wold but later left to work for the Cheltenham and Gloucester Building Society (subsequently acquired by Lloyds bank).

Inevitably along the way I married, and my wife of 42 years and I have two children and three grandchildren. We live near Cheltenham where I regularly see Richard Wright and Peter Mason (both WHS in the 60s) and until recently I was a Governor at Cheltenham College where I narrowly missed Emma Goldsmith who is a Governor there.

Years later, I recognise the influence WHS has had on my life. I love all the “backwoods” and other skills I learned from being in the Scouts (thanks to the wonderful Richard Speight and others), carpentry (thanks to Eric Marriott), I still sing and even enjoy maths puzzles (thanks to Donald Simpson). Happy days.



The choir of 1966, Chris is front row right, 3 along from Richard Murdin.



ROBIN DAUNCEY (1944-49)

After WHS and leaving Rugby School in 1953, I served two years National Service training as a Field Engineer with the Royal Engineers with duties embracing Bailey bridging and mine laying/

clearance with the odd booby trap which became part of life for a while.

Subsequently I joined a London Metal Exchange Member Company, employed in their soft commodities department which encompassed rubber, cocoa and coffee. We were bought by a leading Merchant Bank in the early '70s and I then worked and travelled for four years with their German department (as a German speaker) behind the Iron Curtain. Regular visits to Russia (Soviet Union) and countries in Eastern Europe proved to be a most interesting time, if sometimes, quite challenging.

Prior to my retirement in 1996, I was CEO at The Cocoa Association of London for 11 years organising trade missions to the main Cocoa producing countries. Whoever said life is dull! 

WINCHESTER
HOUSE



Classic Car Show

SATURDAY 22ND APRIL 2023

Midday to 4pm



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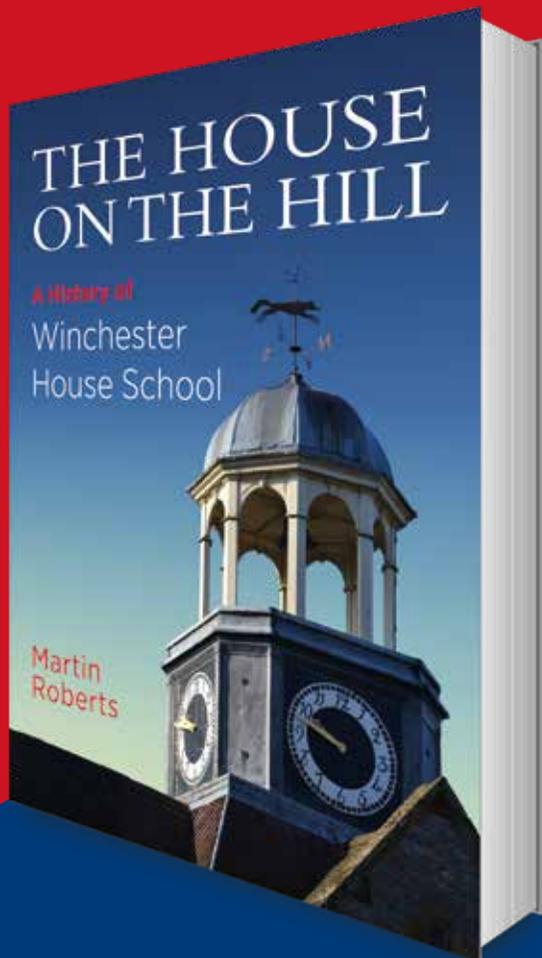
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Winchester House is a much travelled School which found its home in Brackley just over a century ago. *The House on the Hill* is a new history by Martin Roberts which details the life and times of this thriving country prep school and the way in which it has adapted to the demands of the changing world. It's a sure page turner for anyone who has a connection with the School whether you're a former pupil, member of staff, parent or friend of WHS.

This hard back is retailing at £30.00 plus UK postage and packaging at £3.00, postage costs vary outside the UK. **To order your copy, please detach and complete both sides of the Order Form.**

For further information, please email Emma McGowan, Alumni Relations Manager at: emma.mcgowan@winchester-house.org or call 01280 702483.

*I received a copy of your new book **The House on the Hill** for my birthday a couple of weeks ago and I wanted to get in touch to say that I have not been able to put it down since. I've always been fascinated by the history of WHS but have to say that there were so many anecdotes from across the years which were fascinating; you should be hugely proud of the way the book is written too.*

Matt Phillips
Music Teacher (2004-2014)

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HOUSIAN NEWS

THE HOUSE ON THE HILL ORDER FORM

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CULWORTH FIVE MILER

Housian Rupert Rowling's (1995-2000) annual Culworth Five Miler was embraced by the WHS community with children, parents, alumni and former parents tackling the 'undulating' five mile course (2.5 miles for children) on Sunday 12th September 2021. Runners and their support teams, including canine friends, descended on Forge Coffee for a much needed caffeine boost before the run. Acting Head, Katy Dallimore, sounded the starting horn with 30 eager runners heading off across the field and tracks. Runners included the Preston, Nelson and McGowan families, former parent Alistair Judge and alumni Sam Martin and his father Simon. Former parent and Culworth resident Luke White came along to support with Thomas Franks' Catering Manager Jon Cooper.

HOUSIAN CAROL SERVICE AT STOWE

The annual Housian Carol Service changed venue in 2021 and was held in the Stowe Chapel on



Monday 6th December. Despite growing worries of the omnicron variant, the seats of Sir Robert Lorimer's magnificent chapel (which was opened in 1929 by Prince George), were filled with alumni, former parents, children and their families eager to experience a Carol Service for the first time in two years. Acting Head Katy Dallimore lit the first candle which signalled the start of Cantoris singing Perry & Perry's 'One Single Light' with solos by Lucinda H and Freya P. Head Girl Victoria and Head Boy Ben read The Birth of Jesus with soloist Niamh singing the first verse of 'Once in Royal David's City'. Housian Catherine Caseman (1996-2002) read The Shepherd's Visit. Alumni appreciated listening

to former Head of Geography and Games teacher Tim Riley (2008-2020) reading Little Tree by EE Cummings, and former Biology and Games teacher Mark Keating (1988-2020) reading A Child's Christmas in Wales by Dylan Thomas. Katy Dallimore then read The Visit of the Kings. Enormous thanks go to Rev Rich Duncan of St Peter's Church, Brackley, who oversaw the service, Director of Music Chris Price, Organist Jonathan Kingston and Music Teacher Vivienne Williams. The retiring collection was in aid of BYHP, the School's charity, with over £600 being donated. The congregation then gathered in the church to enjoy homemade mince pies and prosecco. A fitting end to a wonderful service.

JOSH SHEPHERD-SMITH (2011-13)

Josh graduated from St Catherine's College, Oxford in 2021, having studied Experimental Psychology. He is now working as a data analyst. Josh is pictured with his parents Juliet and Ben.



MERMAIDS' MINUTE BOOK APPEAL

Housian John Dalglish (1959 to 1964) would like to appeal to Housians in his search for the Mermaids' Minute Book which cannot be found in the School archives. John writes: 'I had a lot of fun with The Mermaids in the sixties in the time of Meikle, Davies

and Llewellyn, and I would love to see the text of the Prologue that we opened our meetings with (oops I finished a sentence with a preposition...sorry; don't show the English teachers). As I recall, the text was a combination of 'As You Like It' and 'Macbeth' and the place to find the text is pasted inside the cover of the Minute Book in which we recorded our weekly Mermaid readings. I would be so pleased if you could find it for me.'

The Mermaid Society was the oldest society in WHS, dating back to 1934, when it had been founded by Evan Hope-Gill with the intention of

reading plays on Thursday evenings in the Reading Room. Later, Sunday readings were added and no interruption was allowed during the war. The Mermaids made their own traditions. Full members, men and boys, were addressed as 'Mister' and part-members as 'Master'. Members took to wearing a maroon velvet cap decorated with the Maltese Cross. The society owed a large debt to Michael Llewellyn, who had various spells as President, with Stephen Lucas. Gradually, the Mermaids took over responsibility for the annual school productions, in which its members frequently took leading roles. H

SPORTING HIGHLIGHTS

TOBY THAME

Toby Thame (2011–17) was selected to join the U18 England rugby team at a training session in York in December 2021. Toby began playing tag rugby at Towcester Rugby Club at the age of six. He started at WHS in Year 3 and was part of a highly successful year group who won various tournaments and made it to the finals of the National Schools Championships where they lost to Whitgift. Toby is Captain of Rugby at Radley College and has been part of the Northampton Saint's Academy since the age of 13. Toby now plays regularly for Saints' U18 side against Wasps, Saracens, Worcester and Harlequins. We look forward to charting Toby's career in the world of rugby.



CLASS OF 2017 BOYS REPRESENT THEIR SCHOOL'S 1ST XV

Housians from the Class of 2017 James Hill, Ollie Orme-Smith (VC), Mackenzie Morgan and Fred Thame (C), donned Rugby School's infamous white rugby shirts and represented the School's 1st XV during the Michaelmas Term 2021. Meanwhile Housians Harry Pitt, Toby Thame (C) and Rory Fletcher played in red for Radley College's 1st XV. At Teddies Housians Joe Cairns, Alexander Sharman, Seb Southan and Lucas Watkins, represented their 1st XV. These talented sportsmen were part of WHS' 1st XV who reached the finals of the National Schools' U13 Rugby Cup. The boys showed passion, determination and huge amounts of skill from a very young age at WHS and it's great to see their talent go from strength to strength at their senior schools.



In the WHS Yearbook 2016/2017, Mr Stoop wrote: 'The journey in

this cup has been one that the squad and myself will remember for many years to come, and the game against Warwick, is without a shadow of doubt the best game of U13 rugby I have ever watched and been involved with. This group of players are a true credit to themselves, their families and the school, and regardless of the result in the final, they have exceeded all expectations.' Big thanks to photographer Mrs Southan.



LULU LEETHAM

Lulu played in her first County Golf Championships on 22 & 23 May 2021 at the Buckinghamshire Ladies County Golf Championship, and won the bronze medal at the age of 14 years.



BEN & MIMI MERRITT REPRESENT RUGBY SCHOOL'S 1ST XI HOCKEY & 1ST XI CRICKET

Ben, class of 2019 and Captain of hockey, is playing for Rugby's 1st XI boys' hockey team and Oxfordshire U17. Meanwhile his sister Mimi (class of 2017) has represented Rugby's girls' 1st XI cricket team.

COPENHAGEN CUP

The Copenhagen Cup subsidiary final at The Guard's Polo Club on 12th September 2021, saw Radley College meet Rugby School, with Rugby represented by Housians

Bruno and Toby Bradshaw and Fred Thame and Housian Harry Pitt representing Radley. After a fantastic match, Rugby won 7-5. Huge thanks to Mrs Pitt for being our official photographer for the day!



HOUSIANS REUNITED

CLASS OF 2021 RUGBEIANS SUPPORT U11 NETBALL TEAM

(Right) Class of 2021 Rugbeians Bruno Bradshaw, Wilf Milligan, Flora McGowan, Aggie Fagan and Thalia Douglas were out in force supporting the girls' U11 netball team when playing in the IAPS regional qualifiers at Rugby on 28th January 2022. The girls made it through to the quarter finals, narrowly losing to Repton Prep, and were delighted to have Housians cheering on from the side lines.



KATY DALLIMORE VISITS OUNDLE

Acting Head, Katy Dallimore was pleased to catch up with Archie Macfarlane and George Skillings (Class of 2020) on a visit to Oundle.



LIV PEPIATT RETURNS FOR WORK EXPERIENCE

We were delighted to welcome Housian Liv Peppiatt (Class of 2018) back to School in June 2021 for work experience post GCSEs. Liv helped out in Seligman with the many end



of term activities and was a big hit with the children.

U15 OUNDLE VS STOWE NETBALL

(Right) Sasha Wakeford and Jessica Li of Oundle and Gwen Grovit of Stowe (Class of 2020) met on the netball court on 5th February 2022. Roving reporter, Mrs Grovit, said both games were very close, with Stowe's U15A team winning 38-35 (both Sasha and Gwen were players of the match) and Jessica's U15B

team winning 30-27. The girls were key members of the WHS girls' 1st team, with Sasha and Gwen representing Northamptonshire's U13 county team whilst at WHS.



U14 RADLEY VS RUGBY HOCKEY

Housians Bruno Bradshaw (Rugby), Alex Loudon (Radley) and Patrick Craig (Rugby), all from the Class of 2021, were delighted to be reunited on the hockey pitch. After a thrilling match between Radley and Rugby, the score line was 1-1. Big thanks to roving reporter Mrs Bradshaw for snapping this photo.



SIENNA MARTIN CHEERS ON U13 GIRLS' NETBALL

The girls' U13 netball team enjoyed a fantastic day of sport at the IAPS regional qualifiers at Uppingham School. They were cheered on by Housian Sienna Martin (Class of 2018) and numerous parents who watched them win the plate.



U14 RUGBY VS UPPINGHAM NETBALL

(Right) The U14 Rugby and Uppingham girls' netball teams met in February 2022 reuniting Aggie, Flora, Thalia of Rugby with Jemima and Holly of Uppingham (Class of 2021). Reporter and photographer Mrs Douglas said, 'It was a fast, tight and fun match with Rugby taking the game 20-19, with all Housians playing brilliantly.'



U14 STOWE VS TEDDIES RUGBY

Class of 2021 members Oscar Danby (Teddies), George Emerson and George Rutherford (Stowe) were reunited on the rugby pitch.

STOWE SCHOOL PERFORMS OLIVER!

Numerous Housians and a selection of Year 5 WHS children performed in Stowe's visually stunning production of Oliver! James Smith was one of three Artful Dodgers, Jet West was Mrs Bedwin, Grace Reilly was Matron, Jemima Pearson-Gee was a Milkmaid, and Oliver Acors and Flora Peppiatt were in the ensemble. The WHS children: Ethan, Arthur, Nuala, Daisy, Alice, Emma, Annabel, Isla and Raphael, were orphans and thoroughly enjoyed taking part in a senior school performance alongside their former school friends.



U14 STOWE VS TUDOR HALL HOCKEY

Members of the Class of 2021 were reunited on and off the Stowe astro for the Stowe vs Tudor U14 girls' hockey match. With George Emerson and Flora Peppiatt (Stowe)



U14 BLOXHAM VS TEDDIES RUGBY

Bruno Bradshaw (Rugby) cheered on fellow members of the Class of 2021 at the Teddies vs Bloxham U14 rugby match in October 2021 which saw friends Oscar Danby (Teddies) and Toby Dawes (Bloxham) reunited on the pitch.



cheering from the stands, Chloe Barker, Flora Coombes and Katinka Hewetson represented Tudor with Millie Colebrook playing for Stowe.

U16 STOWE VS UPPINGHAM HOCKEY

Sam Bateman (Uppingham) and Thomas Mayo (Stowe), both class of 2019, were delighted to meet one another on the hockey pitch in the first round of the U16 Hockey Tier 1 Cup, with Uppingham winning 3-0. Thanks to Mrs Bateman for sharing the photo. 



HOUSIAN ANNOUNCEMENTS

DEATHS

CHRISTOPHER JOHN

HUTHWAITE DAVIS (1953-1959), 29th November 2020. Son of the Reverend Ronald & Mrs Joan Davis, husband of Wendy, father of Natasha and Josephine, grandfather of Daniel and Freya and brother of Pat Doyne-Ditmas and the late Tim. *See obituary on page 44.*



JOHN WINNINGTON-INGRAM (1935-1939), 17th March 2021 died on St Patrick's Day aged 94. He was born 20th April 1926, son of the Rev Edward Francis Winnington-Ingram (1883-1963) and his wife the former Gladys Winifred Armstrong (1903-1995). Sub-Lieutenant RNVR. He married firstly, 12th Sept 1953, Shirley Yvonne Lamotte; married secondly, 21st June 1973, Mrs Elizabeth Linda Few-Brown. He leaves two sons, Edward and Gerald.

JANE JONES, 2nd April 2021, much loved wife of Richard and mother of Housians Victoria, Harry and Fergus. Jane was the dynamic co-founder of 'Hippos' with Juliet

Dessain which became 'Friends of WHS' in June 2003. *See Obituary on page 45.*

PAUL HAYE (1942-1948), 5th April 2021, much loved husband of Philippa, died aged 85 of motor neurone disease. He donated his brain to Oxford University for research into the disease. Philippa would be grateful for any donations to the MND Association.

PHILIP HARRISON OSWALD (1941-1946), 5th May 2021, died at the Arthur Rank Hospice in Cambridge. He was diagnosed with metastatic prostate cancer in February 2018. *See Obituary on page 47.*

JOHN SHINGLER (1944-48). 10th November 2021, John was the step brother of Patrick Chavasse (1944-1949) and played in the 1st XV in 1947. *(See below; Patrick Chavasse is far left on the back row with John Shingler standing next to him.)*



SARA PONS, née Hayman, 7th December 2021, died peacefully aged 75 at home in France. Beloved wife of François, sister of Judy Martin-Jenkins and daughter of the late CHT Hayman and his second wife, Muriel. *See obituary on page 56.*

RICHARD MURDIN (1964-2001), 21st December 2021, much loved husband of Valerie and daughters Victoria and Patricia. Richard joined WHS in 1964 aged 23 and never left. *See obituary on page 57.*

JULIET SHEPHERD SMITH (nee Colman), 18th January 2022 much loved wife of Ben and adored mother of Housians Theo, Josh and Ophelia.



CHRISTOPHER JOHN HUTHWAITE DAVIS (1953-1959)

On 12th January 1946, the joint Headmasters' wives both gave birth at the Radcliffe Infirmary in Oxford: to Telford and Muriel Hayman a daughter, Sara, and to Ronald and Joan Davis a son, Christopher. Sara & Christopher remained in contact all their lives as they considered themselves 'twins'.

Christopher went to Winchester House (as did his sister Pat and brother Tim) and then to Radley College where his athletic and musical talents came to the fore. He played the drums in the Radley jazz band and was in the 1st XI cricket team. After leaving Radley, he joined forces with local Brackley musicians and formed a rock band named The Escorts. Although they 'cut a disc' for a well-known brand, they did not make the Top 10! Subsequently, Christopher got a job with a London advertising agency followed by several jobs in marketing & PR until he started his own PR & Marketing company (specialising in the construction industry) in 1982, which was extremely successful and continued until his retirement.

His parents were extremely keen on country pursuits and, from a very early age, Christopher learned to fly fish (trout and salmon) and shoot (grouse, pheasant, duck etc) which he thoroughly enjoyed.

He married Wendy in 1968 and they adopted two lovely daughters, Natasha and Josephine, in 1975 and 1979 respectively. They lived in Woking from 1972 in various houses all of which were wonderful family homes. Josephine got married in 2001 and subsequently had two children – grandchildren for Christopher, which he absolutely adored.

Marrying a wife who was brought up in East Africa, Christopher was introduced to Africa later in life,



fell in love with the continent and they spent many wonderful holidays in Zimbabwe, South Africa and Kenya. Having played golf for many years on public courses, Christopher and Wendy joined Chobham Golf Club in 1997 and had many happy years of participating in the club competitions and made many new friends.

Christopher suffered from many health problems in his last few years but always continued to overcome these problems with his sense of humour and lust for life. H

JANE JONES

Co-Founder of Hippos

Memories of Jane by Richard Jones

Jane's final words to me were "We had fun, didn't we?" and we certainly did. We were truly blessed in our 36 years of marriage.

Jane was born in an army hospital on the Isle of Sheppey in 1958 into a very close caring family led by Brigadier John but quietly and lovingly managed by their wonderful mother Anne.

John was a truly good man but had slightly Victorian views in bringing up his four daughters: Susan, Jane, Cathy and Sarah, with the primary aim of making them wonderful wives and mothers in which he succeeded. But they are all so much more than this.

In the early years the Copper family followed John around his various postings in Shrivenham and Hilden in Germany. On his return to England, he became a Whitehall warrior and they started a more settled life in Kent and ultimately Uckfield in Sussex.

Jane's sisters talk of idyllic early years of camping holidays in Italy, France, Cornwall and Wales, walking to school, learning to ride bikes, swimming in their pool and eventually trips to the shops to buy sweets on their own!

Jane was a natural pack leader and loved making mischief which Susan says she often ended up taking the blame for, being the oldest. There was one glorious occasion when, map reading for her father on a Cornish holiday, she managed to find the narrowest and steepest hill in the county and, much to Jane's delight, John's heavily laden Renault 4 ran out of steam halfway up the hill. Poor John had to reverse all the way down the hill accompanied by his strongest language "damn, damn, damn." On our wedding day, John



shared with me that Jane could be a devil; we certainly all remember her wicked sense of humour which she directed without mercy. Jane was also incredibly loving, caring and supportive to all.

I am certain Jane would look back at her school days as not her best time of life with inconsistent patchy army and village schools, followed by a Church of England convent boarding school, St Agnes and St Michael in East Grinstead. She certainly learnt more from her life outside the classroom and from her wonderful House Mistress, Sister Alma Mary from Trinidad and Tobago.

On leaving school, life became far more fun and fulfilling having found her great talent for caring for and teaching children. She studied nursery nursing in Brighton, then on to King's College Hospital in London. Following that she had a wonderful ski season in Tignes and then went on to a summer school in Crans-Montana, Switzerland. On returning to England, Jane moved into teaching at Wetherby Prep School and ultimately Garden House School to run the nursery section of the pre-prep, a job she adored and where she collected great lifelong friends. Jane was an exceptional early year's teacher and worked hard to develop her talents, initially qualifying as a Montessori teacher and latterly taking a teaching degree, done the hard way, while working.

After a rather splendid wedding at Brigadier John's place of work, Gloucester Cathedral, having swapped from the army to church to become diocesan secretary, the happy couple were married and moved into 42 Westgate, SW10. The SW10 was a critical part of the marriage contract as Jane's single key stipulation was that I bought a flat in Kensington and Chelsea to get resident parking to enable her to drive to her teaching job at Garden House School just off Sloane Square.

Married life flew by with Victoria being born in 1987 and Harry two years later when we moved to Kington and finally Fergus six years on with the family having moved to Paddocks Farm in Culworth, Northamptonshire.

Jane continued teaching until we left London and then turned her considerable organizational skills to manage the family, setting up various groups including mothers and babies and then proceeded to help modernize the children's prep school at Winchester House with Juliet Dessain forming the Hippos, a parent support group which might have been called a PTA by the less imaginative. Jane's fearsome organizational skills were then directed to running a fundraising committee for Katharine House Hospice, raising hundreds of thousands of pounds with great events



such as the annual clay shoot and, of course, the Christmas wine tasting.

Life was going well with Victoria teaching in London, Harry reading classics at Edinburgh and Fergus enjoying life at Stowe School, when just over 10 years ago life bowled a low and vicious ball at her. She was diagnosed with terminal breast cancer with perhaps six months to live.

Jane was utterly heroic in her illness. Irreverent, generous, brave and uncomplaining, reminding us at the end of how blessed we had been to have been given the extra ten years. Her generosity was extended to all around us sharing her experiences of this dreadful illness and giving others strength to carry on, as she did with her usual raucous sense of humour. Her faith was more instinctive than intellectual, as love is; it was deep-seated having been brought up in a strongly Christian family and this gave her a powerful moral compass.

If I were to characterise Jane in one word it would be **love**. She had a fierce love for our three beautiful children, whom she prepared for life. They have in them the fearlessness, wit, tenacity, talent and beauty of their mother together with her great strengths of empathy, kindness and a wicked sense of humour.

Her greatest pleasure in life was spending time with children, especially her two beloved grandchildren Esme and Otto, sharing her extraordinary abilities to enthuse, encourage, inspire and create wonderful laughter.

Jane was a wonderful friend to so many with her generosity of spirit, unfailing support and constant loyalty. Time spent with Jane was always a good place to be with so much fun and joy and laughter. I bless every day we had together since we first met over 38 years ago. 

Hippos and Friends

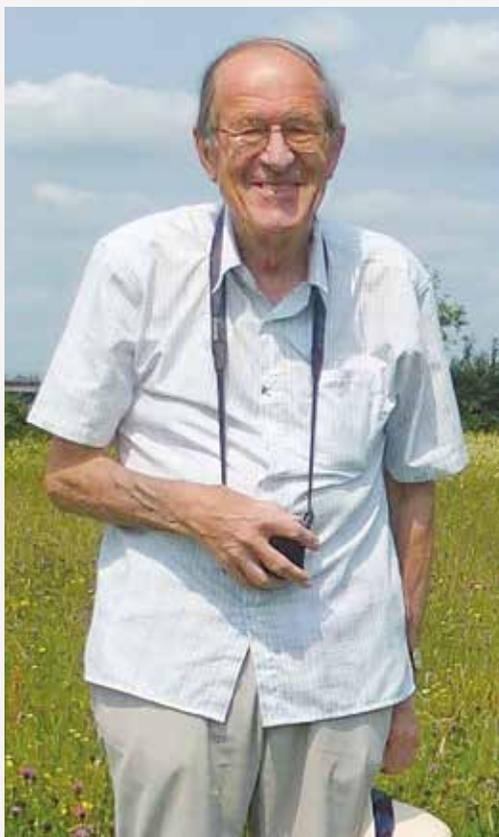
It is with great sadness that we announced the death of Jane Jones on Good Friday, 2nd April 2021, aged 61. Jane was the much loved wife of Richard and mother of alumni Victoria, Harry and Fergus. Jane was diagnosed with breast cancer nearly ten years ago and, through her usual good humour and positive attitude, was able to enjoy a full and fruitful life to the end.

Jane was the dynamic co-founder of 'Hippos' with Juliet Dessain which became 'Friends of WHS' in June 2003. The creation of the Friends was marked with a race of helium balloons, with several balloons making it as far as the Netherlands. Jane and Juliet's combined energy, sense of fun and organisational skills created a body of parents who welcomed and supported new children and their families into the school, and arranged much anticipated social, fundraising and charitable events. Jane's legacy to WHS remains the Friends which continues to play a pivotal part in School life.

PHILIP HARRISON OSWALD (1941-1946)

Written by Philip H Oswald

My parents were missionaries in Nigeria, so, although I was conceived there, my mother came back by ship to Britain, as was normal in those days when West Africa still had the reputation of being "the white man's grave". I was born in London on 13th April 1933 and was educated at Winchester House School (WHS), Brackley, Eton College and King's College, Cambridge, winning a scholarship to Eton and an exhibition to King's. At the University of Cambridge I obtained the degree of Bachelor of Arts, with Second Class Honours in Classics



(Latin and Ancient Greek) in 1953 and Theology in 1954, later becoming Master of Arts.

My sister Jane was born on 11th March 1935, again in London. (She died on 26th October 2020, after a serious stroke ten days earlier.) After my father's return from Nigeria during the winter of 1935/36 he became Vicar of St Mark's Church, Oulton Broad, in Suffolk but within the Diocese of Norwich. On 4th June 1939, three months before the outbreak of war, my brother John Edward Guy, known all his life as Guy, was born in nearby Lowestoft. (He was a graduate of Queens' College, Cambridge, was ordained in 1968 and ministered in various Anglican parishes around Chippenham, Wiltshire; on 5th February 1977 he married Jane Davies in St Nicholas' Church, Hardenhuish, where his funeral took place on 10th March 2020 after his death aged 80 on 19th February.) In 1941 my father was appointed Rector of Holy Trinity Church in Norwich, in time for us all to experience the so-called Baedeker raids at the end of April 1942. My youngest sibling, Jonathan, was born on 18th October 1949, and at the New Year my father became Rector of St Margaret's Church, Angmering, in West Sussex in the Diocese of Chichester. (Sadly, Jonathan died from cystic fibrosis, on 14th July 1957.)

I early became interested in field botany and spent much of my spare time and holidays botanising. My late friend, Mark Birchall and I bicycled from Eton to Burnham Beeches and elsewhere. In the Easter holidays of 1950 and 1951 I went to stay with him at Duntisbourne Abbots in Gloucestershire, and met his grandmother, who was instrumental in my joining the Wild Flower Society and filling in its Field Botanist's Diary for six years and winning a junior prize. We bicycled to see Fritillaries (*Fritillaria meleagris*) near Cricklade and Pasqueflowers (*Pulsatilla vulgaris*) near Cirencester. Wilfred Blunt (brother of the spy Anthony) taught art at Eton and, although I was never one of his pupils, he kindly drove me to see two interesting plants, Green Hellebore (*Helleborus viridis*) and Summer

Snowflake (*Leucojum aestivum*). As an undergraduate I often travelled out of Cambridge to botanise, either by bicycle – for example to see Lily-of-the-valley (*Convallaria majalis*) in White Wood, Gamlingay, and Lizard Orchid (*Himantoglossum hircinum*) on the Devil's Ditch – or with a lift from another late friend, David Dupree of Trinity College, and during the vacations I explored the South Downs from Angmering. The Lay Dean of King's, the late John Raven, was a Classicist but also a very competent amateur Botanist, and he encouraged me greatly in both fields: I have often described him as “my official classical supervisor and my unofficial botanical mentor”. He very generously invited me to join him and others in the Long Vacation of 1953 to botanise in Snowdonia, the Yorkshire Dales, Upper Teesdale and the Lake District (to which we returned the following summer). David Dupree also drove me, in his sports car, over much of Scotland and Ireland in the summer of 1955.

Among my principal undergraduate friends at King's were Roger Clark, Colin Nears and the late Roger Griffiths, Colin Harris and Nicholas Temperley (a member of my 1946 election at Eton, who came up to King's in 1952 after a year at the Royal College of Music, and quickly fitted into this group of my friends who used to lunch together every weekday at the Boar's Head Club, for which we had a special tie made). Others were Andrew Ayling, John Heawood (with whom I travelled in Greece in the Easter Vacation of 1953), Peter Bedford and the late Michael Moore, Roger Waterfield (godfather of my younger daughter, Clare, as am I of his eldest child Patrick) and Justin Davies, all of them reading Classics in 1951–53. In other colleges I maintained my friendship with two other members of my 1946 election at Eton, the late David Jackson at Trinity and, in 1953/54 after his National Service, the late Christopher Staughton at Magdalene (with whom Nicholas Temperley and I returned to playing Eton Fives in the Magdalene court).

After university and having been turned down for a Russian course in the Royal Navy for my two years'

National Service because I had suffered from a duodenal ulcer, I taught in various schools for six years, the first of them being a coeducational boarding school for emotionally maladjusted children, Horncastle in West Sussex. Next came an abortive attempt to teach at Victoria College, Maadi, Cairo, in the autumn of 1956, which was cut short after three and a half weeks by the Suez crisis. Roger Clark and I had driven in my Bedford Dormobile across the Continent to Thessaloniki and Istanbul and then around Greece to Piraeus, for me to take ship for Alexandria, while he flew home to Britain, but in the end I was obliged to leave the van in Maadi on the edge of the desert! During our last weeks at Victoria College the staff were put under house arrest and I got to know one of the staff of the Junior School, Janet Margaret Leigh (exactly two months younger than I). In December the teachers of all the British schools in Egypt travelled together from Alexandria to Naples on a romantic voyage in idyllic weather; our ship called in at Beirut and Piraeus, giving us the chance to visit the ruins of Baalbek and the sites of Athens. Janet and I were engaged on 10th January 1957, and I obtained a temporary teaching post at Uppingham School while she taught at a boys' preparatory school close to her home in Old Woking. I taught sixth-form Latin and Ancient Greek (moderately successfully, I think) and fourth-form Latin (a disaster!). It was a difficult winter, with petrol rationing and other problems, compounded, in our case, by being so far apart, though the Summer Term was easier.

After our marriage on 10th August 1957, Janet and I left Britain again for me to teach at the English School, Nicosia, then an intercommunal partly-boarding English-language secondary school for Cypriot boys, while Janet got a job at the nearby Junior School teaching children of British expatriates and others wanting an English-language curriculum. Having learned Ancient Greek from the age of ten and having tried to convert this into Modern Greek during my two previous visits to Greece in 1953 and 1956, I was better equipped than my expatriate colleagues to

pass the Government of Cyprus's examinations in the latter; indeed I was awarded a small bonus for doing so within (I think) a year of our arrival. Despite the terrorist activities of EOKA during part of our time in Cyprus, we were able to explore much of the island and to enjoy the sea around Kyrenia. We also flew via Beirut to the part of Jerusalem, at that time in Jordan, for Christmas in both 1957 and 1958, staying at St George's, the Anglican Cathedral, and visiting Bethlehem, the Dead Sea, St George's Monastery in Wadi Qelt, Jericho, Hebron, Amman and a Palestinian refugee camp, as well as the holy sites of Jerusalem. In the Easter holidays of 1960 I flew to Israel with an English School colleague, John Matthews, travelling as far south as Eilat and to the Sea of Galilee and Nazareth in the north. During visits to Greece and Yugoslavia in 1953, 1956 and 1960 and during our three years' stay in Cyprus, I became greatly interested in the flora and vegetation of the eastern Mediterranean. One of my colleagues at the English School was W.H.V. ('Ben') Elliott (King's College, Cambridge, 1952–55; later an Anglican priest), who courted my sister, Jane, when she came to visit us and married her at Angmering on 29th July 1959. On 14th December that year, the day on which Archbishop Makarios was elected President of the new Republic of Cyprus (though he did not take office until 16th August 1960), our first child, also Jane, was born in Nicosia General Hospital.

Returning to Britain in the summer of 1960, I joined the staff of the Nature Conservancy (later the Nature Conservancy Council). For the first two years I combined my duties with study at Stockport College of Further Education, obtaining the London Advanced Level Certificate of Education in Botany and Zoology, qualifying me for the scientific civil service. Our second child, Christopher, was born at home in Rostherne, Cheshire, on 14th November 1961, and our third child, Clare, in hospital in Shrewsbury on 8th December 1966. While at Rostherne, we made lasting friendships with Peter and Jackie Schofield and with the late Richard Budenberg and his wife Mary. Peter was later

a colleague in the NC/NCC and became one of Clare's two godfathers, while Mary became one of her two godmothers.

During my 30 years working for the Government-funded body then in charge of nature conservation in Great Britain, I was responsible, successively, for the day-to-day management of Rostherne Mere National Nature Reserve – working closely with the late Jack Osborne, previously a gamekeeper on the Tatton estate – including assistance to members of the Manchester Ornithological Society in carrying out wildfowl counts and to research workers from the Universities of Liverpool, Manchester and Salford and the Freshwater Biological Association at The Ferry House, Windermere; for survey and selection of Sites of Special Scientific Interest and other advisory duties of an Assistant Regional Officer; from 1965, by then based at Attingham Park, Shrewsbury, for advisory and project work in environmental education as Head of the NC's Education Advisory Section (EAS); for managing the NC/NCC's publications, exhibitions, educational work and media relations as Head of the Interpretative Branch; for public and media relations and compiling the NCC's annual reports to Parliament (see below) as Head of Publicity, based in Huntingdon from 1976 and in Peterborough from 1984 but living in Cambridge; and, from 9th February 1985, as Communications Officer of the Chief Scientist Directorate, for co-ordinating its input to the NCC's publishing and publicity, including encouraging my colleagues to communicate their work more effectively and drafting and/or editing numerous scientific and more popular publications. Several of the published scientific reports were very influential; especially *Birds, bogs and forestry. The peatlands of Caithness and Sutherland* (D.A. Stroud *et al.*, July 1987) and *The Flow Country. The peatlands of Caithness and Sutherland* (R.A. Lindsay *et al.*, January 1988), both edited by the late Dr Derek Ratcliffe and me. As a result of the case made by these two publications, a substantial proportion of these peatlands was designated as a Ramsar site

and also classified under European Nature Directives as a Special Protection Area and Special Area of Conservation, ensuring the protection of much of the remaining peatland in Caithness and Sutherland from afforestation. (*Ramsar is the city in Iran where the Ramsar Convention was held in 1971*)

During these 30 years, I had wide experience of most aspects of nature conservation in Great Britain and considerable opportunities for gaining knowledge of the natural environment and its conservation in other parts of Europe, travelling to seven countries on official duty and several more on holiday. My colleague, the late Nettie Bonnar, and I organised the influential Conference on Education (the second conference of "The Countryside in 1970", a multi-organisational programme of planning for the future of the natural environment) held at the University of Keele on 26–28th March 1965. Later in 1965, the Central Electricity Generating Board (CEGB) offered some 'amenity land' around Drakelow Power Station, near Burton-on-Trent, for school field studies; as a result my assistant in the EAS, the late Tony Herbert, and I served on its management committee and also gave advice on the development of such facilities in the grounds of several other English power stations. My first boss, Dr Tom Pritchard, brought together researchers, some working on the meres of Shropshire and Cheshire and others on peat bogs, to form the Meres Research Group and the Mires Research Group. (The latter later became a specialist group within the British Ecological Society as the Peatlands Research Group: see <<https://www.britishecologicalsociety.org/membership-community/special-interest-groups/peatlands-research/>>). I acted as Secretary to both of these groups and participated in field meetings based on peat bogs in Wales and in northern England, the latter led by the late Dr David Bellamy. In December 1965, I organised a Meres and Mires Conference at Attingham Park, Shrewsbury, the *Proceedings* of which were edited by Tony Herbert and me. In 1968 Frederick Warne & Co. Ltd published for the NC, priced at "5/- net", *Nature Trails* by Tom

Pritchard, myself, E.A.J. Buckhurst and Peter Hope Jones, including as an appendix the text of a nature trail at Alvecote Pools devised by Tom Pritchard and me for National Nature Week in May 1963. In the same year, I was taken off my normal duties to compile an account of the work of the NC, by then, as a component body of the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC), no longer required to produce its own report annually to Parliament. (The success of *The Nature Conservancy Progress 1964–1968* was, I believe, the reason why in 1975 I was charged with the duty of compiling the first eight of the new NCC's annual reports to Parliament.)

I was from 1967 to 1974 Secretary of the North-West Europe Committee of the Commission on Education of the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN), and during 1971–1973 I was also a member of the Working Party on Education and Information of the Council of Europe. I became in July 1968, the first Secretary to the Council for Environmental Education (CEE) – in order to kick-start the new body before it had any staff. With Tony Herbert I also initiated and took a leading role in the planning and organisation of annual conferences each January for staff of local education authorities and independent educational bodies concerned with field studies for schoolchildren, the first in 1969. As a result I was appointed Honorary President of the National Association of Field Studies Officers (NAFSO) and then became one of its Vice-Presidents. (These conferences continued annually until NAFSO decided in 2015 to amalgamate with the Institute of Outdoor Learning to form The Field Studies/NAFSO Special Interest Group.) A major collaboration of the EAS with industry was the Shell Better Britain Competition, launched in European Conservation Year 1970 to encourage schools to engage in environmental improvement projects; Tony Herbert managed the liaison with the participating schools.

In the summer of 1979 my boss, the late Dr Peter Gay, and I approached Richard Mabey to write, with our

assistance, a book “to widen the public debate on nature conservation” with particular reference to the work of the NCC. My own role was to arrange for Richard to meet a wide range of NCC officers, to visit a good number of National Nature Reserves and to have privileged access to relevant internal documents, and then to check his drafts for any inaccuracies but “without any restriction on the expression of his own opinions”. This formula proved very successful and *The Common Ground – subtitled A place for nature in Britain's future?* – was published by Hutchinson “in association with the Nature Conservancy Council” in 1980. Earlier I was given responsibility for liaison with Cambridge University Press over its publication in 1977 of the two volumes of *A Nature Conservation Review*, edited by the NCC's Chief Scientist, Derek Ratcliffe, and later, after I joined the Chief Scientist Directorate in 1985, over its publication in 1991 of the first of the five volumes of *British Plant Communities*, edited by John S. Rodwell, *Woodlands and scrub*.

My various roles over the years in the NC/NCC led to my often representing it on committees, in some cases technically, as an observer, to avoid any conflicts of interest. For example, in the early 1960s, I gave much advice and help to the Council of the newly formed Cheshire Conservation (later Wildlife) Trust and provided guidance to a committee set up to enhance the value for nature conservation (especially for visiting birds) of the Sandbach Flashes in Cheshire and chaired by the Chairman of the British Soda Company, which owned them. Later, I was co-opted onto the Executive Committee of the Field Studies Council (FSC). I also served on the Field Studies Facilities Committee (FSFC) set up by the FSC in November 1965. Tony Herbert and I, with the late Charles Sinker of the FSC, devised for it a folded leaflet, based on a ten-point code on the lines of, and supplementary to, the Country Code, entitled *Outdoor Studies Code*, which was widely distributed in 1968 to schools and outdoor studies centres. In 1969 the successor to the FSFC, the Resources Committee of the recently

established Council for Environmental Education (see above), issued a questionnaire to seek information about the 195 known centres in England and Wales where field studies were carried out; the results were published in 1970 in *Directory of centres for outdoor studies in England and Wales*. Charles, Tony and I, analysed the data obtained through the questionnaire and in 1972 published a joint paper in *Field Studies*, 4: 655–679, ‘Centres for field studies in England and Wales: the results of a questionnaire survey in 1969’. Other committees on which I served were concerned with the use of pesticides in crop production (the British Crop Production Council’s Education and Communications Committee); inter-agency collaboration in countryside interpretation (Standing Committee on Countryside Interpretation); exploration by young people (Council of the Young Explorers’ Trust); signs and symbols in the countryside; an inter-agency steering group for *Birds on lowland farms* by Peter Lack of the British Trust for Ornithology, eventually published in 1992; and in 1985/86 the problem of poisoning of Mute Swans by lead fishing weights.

While Janet and I were still working but particularly after retiring, we made many visits abroad, mainly camping, at first with our children and later on our own, sleeping on lilos in a tent until we were in our 80th year. Summer trips were generally to France (though earlier to the Netherlands, Spain, Germany and Austria) in our own vehicle, but in the spring we ventured further afield, especially to the Greek mainland, Portugal and Santiago de Compostela and elsewhere in northern Spain, by air, taking a little dome tent, sleeping bags and lilos and hiring a small car locally. Much of our time was spent searching for and photographing interesting flora (especially wild orchids) and Romanesque and Byzantine churches and chapels; see also below. Sometimes we journeyed with travel companies – to Jordan (including Petra), St Petersburg, Romania, Syria (including Palmyra and Krak des Chevaliers), Iran (including Persepolis), the Baltic States and Friuli in northern Italy. We also

undertook a self-planned visit with Clare to Aleppo – by train from Damascus – for Christmas 2010, not long before the horrors that hit that wonderful city.

Shortly before my early retirement at the end of March 1991, when the NCC was disbanded, I visited in December 1990 the Orthodox Christian self-governing monastic peninsula of Mount Athos (or the Holy Mountain) in northern Greece, on behalf of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), to report on the ecological implications of a particularly devastating forest fire which had burned for a fortnight in August of that year. Subsequently, I was invited by Martin Palmer, Director of the International Consultancy on Religion, Education and Culture (ICOREC), to attend the Inter-Orthodox Conference on Environmental Protection at the Orthodox Academy of Crete, in November 1991, with my late friend, the distinguished historical ecologist Professor Oliver Rackham; my contribution was entitled ‘The Right Trees in the Right Places’. I was also one of a three-man team (Martin Palmer, Dimitri Conomos and myself) commissioned by WWF and the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Constantinople (Istanbul) to visit as many as possible of the 20 ruling monasteries of Mount Athos. In three visits between April 1991 and June 1993 we travelled to 17 of them and discussed with their Abbots or their nominated representatives, the environmental and conservation issues of greatest concern to them and/or to us in the light of our own observations. Though our principal objective was not biological fieldwork, I was able to see examples of most of the vegetation types present on the Mount Athos peninsula. In September 1993 we prepared our final report, with recommendations for appropriate action, which we presented to the Ecumenical Patriarch, His All-Holiness Bartholomew I, when he visited London, and to WWF International and WWF Greece. My visits to the Holy Mountain revived my interest in Modern Greek and soon after my retirement I joined a Modern Greek class under the auspices of Cambridge’s University of the Third Age, later taking on the role of joint tutor and

ultimately teaching alone. Thereby, I made numerous new friends over the years; many of them (especially the men) sadly now deceased.

I became a member of the Friends of Mount Athos (FoMA) in 1994 and have taken part in six of its overseas pilgrimages – to Thessaly in 2004, to Romania in 2005, to Finland, northern Russia and St Petersburg in 2006, to the Golden Ring and Moscow in 2010, to Serbia, Kosovo and Montenegro in 2012 and to western Turkey and the Dodecanese in 2014. I have also made four further pilgrimages to Mount Athos itself, three times with Oliver Rackham in 2001–03 and most recently, in February 2011, with my 49-year-old son Christopher and 13-year-old grandson Timothy, when we walked for seven hours from the Serbian monastery of Hilandar to Vatopedi, without meeting anyone on the traditional footpath recently reopened by FoMA working parties. My work for ICOREC on Mount Athos also resulted in two visits to China with a young Dutch colleague, Tjalling Halbertsma, in August and September 1996 and April 1998, to report on three Daoist holy mountains, Hua Shan, Qingcheng Shan and Tai Shan, particularly on the environmental threats posed to them by increasing tourism and on the opportunities for restoring Daoist participation in their management, which had passed to wholly secular control.

Many of Janet's and my friendships in Cambridge were made through our church, the University Church, Great St Mary's (GSM), particularly with the members of a prayer group which started to meet in the evening once a fortnight in the home of John and Bridget Perry, while the late Michael Mayne (later Dean of Westminster) was Vicar and later met at our house in Pantown Street. We also spent two nights at various times of the year at Thea Cockcroft's family's house in Cley next the Sea, every year from 1987 (when we arrived on 16th October, the Friday evening after the Great Storm of the previous night) until 26–28th June 2013, walking, bird-watching and picnicking at Holkham (unfailingly,

it seemed, in sunny weather!) and attending services in nearby churches. Some of us also visited various parts of France and – for a course led by John Bell – the Abbey on Iona, and we all stayed in a convent in Bruges. Janet and I also travelled to Edinburgh twice for the Festival, the second time with two members of the prayer group. Janet took the lead in allocating responsibilities for the provisions for our visits to Cley, meticulously planned and organised the overseas trips (providing the participants with a programme in advance) and catered for an annual Christmas meal. Gill Goodhart (formerly Devereux) and her husband Andrew, Imogen Ecclestone and Thea Cockcroft have remained among our dearest friends, as did David Girling, until he died in February 2012. I served on GSM's Parochial Church Council and two of its subcommittees from 1978 onwards and was Lay Vice-Chairman for part of Michael Mayne's term as Vicar; I was also for a time, a member of the Deanery Synod. I was elected one of the two Churchwardens in 1992 while David Conner (now Dean of Windsor) was Vicar and served for three years, for the last two with Sally Broom, including the very taxing period of the interregnum before the appointment, by Trinity College, of the Revd Dr John Binns; I retired from this office and from the PCC at the AGM on 5th April 1995. I was for many years a Sidesman and administered the chalice at the 9.30 a.m. Parish Communion. I was also, for a long time, a member of the Cambridge Christian Aid Committee, latterly arranging each year the distribution to area organisers of posters etc. and the envelopes used for collecting money during Christian Aid Week.

After my retirement in 1991, I remained actively involved in field botany, both in Britain and abroad. I continued to botanise while travelling abroad, principally in France and Greece but also in Italy (including Sardinia), Switzerland, Spain (including Majorca), Portugal, the Republic of Ireland, Turkey, China, Nepal, Ethiopia and the United States. While I was still working for the NCC, I had also made three visits to Czechoslovakia in Communist times, the first

under the auspices of the British Council, visiting my old friend the late Dr Jan Čeřovský, travelling widely and studying and enjoying the rich flora of its protected areas, especially in Slovakia.

In 2020, I celebrated 68 years of membership of the Botanical Society of the British Isles, now the Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland (BSBI), which elected me an Honorary Member in 2008. I served on its Publications Committee from 20th May 1986 until 8th February 2018 and was a member of its Council in 2000–2003. I have been Honorary Editor of the BSBI's Handbooks (for the identification of particular taxonomic groups of plants), editing *Pondweeds, Sea Beans and Nickar Nuts, Dandelions, Sedges* (third edition) and *Water-starworts*. I also edited an annual local natural history journal, *Nature in Cambridgeshire*, for 22 years from 1979 and remained until the end of 2018 a member of its Editorial Board. I have been author, or co-author, of a substantial number of articles (by no means all botanical), book reviews and obituaries for this journal and also for *Shropshire Conservation Trust Bulletin*, *British Wildlife*, *BSBI News*, *BSBI Yearbook*, *Watsonia* and *New Journal of Botany* (the BSBI's two former journals), *Archives of Natural History* (journal of the Society for the History of Natural History), *Huntia* (journal of the Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation in the USA), *Heathers* (Yearbook of the Heather Society), *your environment* (a short-lived magazine), *Taxon*, *Notes and Records of the Royal Society*, *Transactions of the Cambridge Bibliographical Society*, *The Times Literary Supplement*, *The Art Newspaper*, *I Problemi di Ulisse* (a Florentine journal), *Anglo-Hellenic Review*, *House* (Winchester House Association Alumni Magazine), *Majestas* (the former newsletter of Great St Mary's Church), *The Society for the History of Natural History Newsletter* and the Annual Reports or Journals of the National Association of Field Studies Officers, Friends of Mount Athos and the 49 Club (for former NC/NCC colleagues). I also participated in meetings of the last four named bodies. Until recently, I lectured indoors and taught in the field, particularly for the Botany

Group of Cambridge's University of the Third Age, making new friends there and taking part in many of its annual 'safaris' to other parts of England and Wales. Two of the BSBI's field meetings, in the Brenne Regional Nature Park in France in July 2002 and in Guernsey in May 2011, allowed me to experience exciting new botanical habitats and species.

While living in Shrewsbury, I was one of the team planning the 360-page *Ecological Flora of the Shropshire Region* (C.A. Sinker *et al.*, 1985), and after moving to Cambridge I wrote the historical chapter and prepared the corrected softback reprint in 1991. I am also the author of the historical chapter of the 250-page work, *The Flora of Montgomeryshire* (Ian Trueman *et al.*, 1995). I acted for the publishers Sinclair–Stevenson as Botanical Editor of Richard Mabey's highly popular *Flora Britannica* (1996), the aim of which was "to take a nationwide look at where wild plants stand in our social and cultural life *now*". My principal collaborator in projects concerned with botanical history, Dr Chris D. Preston, formerly of the Biological Records Centre, and I translated and edited John Ray's *Catalogus plantarum circa Cantabrigiam nascentium*, the first English county flora; our *magnum opus*, entitled *John Ray's Cambridge Catalogue (1660)* was published by the Ray Society in 2011 and we were awarded the 2012 John Thackray Medal by the Society for the History of Natural History at Exeter on 18th May 2013. More recently, I have been heavily engaged, with three other friends of the late principal author, Peter D. Sell (Arthur Chater, Chris Preston and Gwynn Ellis), in editing and seeing through the press the last two of the five volumes of Sell & Murrell's definitive *Flora of Great Britain and Ireland*, published by Cambridge University Press. I also edited and compiled the index of plants for and selected the photographs, to be included in *A John Clare Flora* (2016) by the late Professor Molly M. Mahood.

Besides my interest in botany, I have long enjoyed visiting cathedrals and churches, beginning with

exploring East Anglian ‘wool churches’ on foot or by bicycle, usually with my father, when on holiday during and soon after World War 2, and later in the course of visits to France, Italy and Bruges and on two tours of English cathedrals in my Bedford Dormobile while on holiday from Horncastle. I became particularly attracted to the Romanesque churches of France and used as my guide for locating them during our numerous car trips, a now heavily annotated copy of *À la découverte de 850 églises romanes de France* by André Verrassel (Duculot, Paris-Gembloux, 1985), purchased in August 1985. Meanwhile, I also developed an interest in Byzantine frescoes and especially mosaics, fine examples of which I have seen in Italy (particularly in Ravenna, Sicily, Rome, Otranto, Aquileia and Grado), the former Yugoslavia, France, Greece (especially Daphni, Hosios Loukas, Mystras and Thessaloniki), Istanbul and Cyprus as well as on Mount Athos and during the FoMA pilgrimages mentioned above.

Being that now rare combination of a Classicist and a Botanist, I have volunteered to give two sessions each autumn on the main principles of Botanical Latin to the trainees at Cambridge University Botanic Garden. I have translated many descriptions of new botanical taxa into Latin, including 23 pages of new hawkweed descriptions in Volume 4 of Sell & Murrell’s *Flora*, published in 2006. Until the 18th International Botanical Congress, held in Melbourne in July 2011, decided that formal descriptions of new taxa could be either in Latin or in English, I used to write or check the Latin for the BSBI’s journal *Watsonia*, for *Botanical Journal of the Linnean Society* and for *Edinburgh Journal of Botany*, and I continue to be called upon to adjudicate on the correctness or appropriateness of new scientific names, which must still be in Latin. Since the publication in 2011, of *John Ray’s Cambridge Catalogue (1660)*, mentioned above, I have also become more widely interested in early British botanists, leading to my translating 16th- and 17th-century Latin for academic publications, often in collaboration with Chris Preston.

Until 2014, Janet and I had lived since our arrival in Cambridge in 1976, at 33 Panton Street, our much-loved William IV terraced house on four floors (including the attic), but managing the stairs was becoming a problem and we decided to ‘downsize’. We were fortunate to secure a seventh-floor penthouse flat on the opposite (south) side of the Botanic Garden, 32 Glenalmond Avenue, which we moved into on 4th July 2014. Nicknamed by our friend Stephen Tomkins “the Oswald eyrie”, it has suited us very well, and it was just as well that we moved when we did, after the huge effort of disposing of vast quantities of books, papers, etc., because in April 2016 Janet’s health began to deteriorate, with a bad bout of shingles and several mini-strokes, one of which robbed her of sight in her left eye. After admission to Addenbrooke’s Hospital and diagnosis of vascular dementia on 4th October 2019, she moved on to Woodlands Care Centre, where she died aged 86, peacefully at the end, on 27th December. Both her well-attended funeral at Great St Mary’s Church on 13th January 2020 and her low-key woodland burial at Barton Glebe three days later, seemed truly worthy of her “life well lived”.

My own health has deteriorated. Metastatic prostate cancer was diagnosed in January 2018 but was well controlled by various hormone treatments with minimal symptoms for two years, when my PSA reading rose sharply, so that my life expectancy is very uncertain. I am extremely lame – probably mainly as a result of rupturing my right Achilles tendon several years ago rather than, as yet, because of my cancer. I also bruise and bleed very easily – a side-effect of my drugs.

To end on a cheerful note, it should be said that in our old age both Janet and I have delighted in our four grandchildren, Jonathan, Rachel, Lucy and Tim, and in our six great-grandchildren, Joshua, Sam, Niamh, Bethany, Sophie and Josiah. 

SARA PONS (NÉE HAYMAN)
12th Jan 1946 – 7th Dec 2021

Written by her sister Judy Martin-Jenkins (née Hayman)

Sara, my sister, was the elder daughter of CHT Hayman & his second wife, Muriel (née Oswald), and was born in the same hospital and on the same day as Christopher, the younger son of Ronald & Joan Davis. She lived with our parents in The Upper Lodge for her first four years until our father died in May 1950. After that the family moved to a new house in Church Road where our mother lived until she died in 1976.

Judy (left) and Sara Hayman with Christopher Davis tobogganing on the WHS drive, December 1950.



Sara Hayman (Pons) at wedding of Pat Davis and Hal, Sara the taller of two girls in hats, Judy the smaller.



Sara and Christopher Davis went to a private class run by Barbara Bate at Croft House, also attended by Punch, the Bates's dog! At seven years old she shared a governess with a family in Middleton Cheney. This was followed by boarding at Greycotes School in Oxford where she eventually became head girl. After that she had a year at Beech Lawn in Oxford where she was prepared for Oxford entrance to read History but she changed her mind and, due to excellent French teaching at Greycotes, she decided to become a bilingual secretary and trained at the Language Tuition Centre in London. Her first job was with

Esso Europe in Hanover Square & then, having been bitten by the travel bug on various student holidays and with her fluent French, she joined Esso Africa in Casablanca. There she met her first husband, Jean-Maurice Berthaud, who was doing his National Service in Morocco. They were married in St Peter's Church, Brackley in August 1971 and their reception was at WHS. Her life in rural South West France near Castres then began and their hospitality extended to numerous friends and relations.

Sadly, their marriage broke up after 13 years and Sara continued to live in Le Vieux Presbytère with a variety of dogs and cats. She ran residential cookery courses from the house along with her work teaching English to nursery school children and adults at the Chamber of Commerce. Happily, she met and married François Pons a few years later. They shared a deep interest in history and church architecture and Sara's knowledge of all kinds of subjects was incredible. She was a keen gardener and enthusiastic hunter of orchids of which there were many in their area of Les Montagnes Noires. She also immersed herself in the local heritage and was an active member of cultural societies. She and François travelled widely together and had particularly interesting trips to Italy, India and Armenia.

Sara made many French friends and was also brilliant at keeping up with her English ones. Her long 'Round Robin' Christmas letters, punctuated by numerous exclamation marks, were legendary and left quite a few of the recipients feeling exhausted. She and François continued to entertain visitors and to take them to the places of interest, far and wide, where she would act as a very competent and knowledgeable guide.

Latterly she had become less mobile after an unsuccessful knee operation and had spent some time in hospital with breathing and digestive problems. She was with François at home, where she was having nursing care, when she died peacefully on our mother's birthday. 

RICHARD MURDIN

A proper schoolmaster

Written by Martin Roberts

A quiet Titan of Winchester House School passed away on 21st December 2021. After well over half a century of dedicated service to the school, Richard Murdin will no longer be among us genially organising Winchester House Association events and quietly upbraiding his laptop.

Richard was born on 30th August 1941 and was brought up in the village of Culworth, whence he came every day on a steam train on the old Great Central line to Brackley to attend Miss Paveley's dame school. He never lost this connection with the town and after graduation from Worcester College, Oxford and completing a PGCE at Bristol University, he was offered



a post by joint Headmasters, Ronald Davis and Michael Llewellyn to teach Classics at WHS from the academic year 1964-5. He never left.

It may seem strange to modern teachers that a man should spend his entire career and beyond in the service of one school, so that he eventually came to know every part of it and all those who passed through it. Not for Richard was the *cursus honorum* of promotion: his achievements went beyond titles and appointments.

As a Latin teacher, Richard maintained the rigorous grammatical traditions of Hayman and Llewellyn, with a Common Entrance paper every week and insistence on the highest "old school" standards. That was teaching; the rest was schoolmastering.

Life in a prep school makes exhausting demands of its staff, both in time and energy. Richard was involved in every part of the activities of WHS, cultural, musical and physical. He sang bass lines reliably and enthusiastically in the Chapel Choir; he was stage manager (as he put it, "pusher-on and dragger-off, as well as mopper-up of tears") for Donald Simpson's Gilbert and Sullivan productions. His unflappable character coped with collapsing sets, forgotten lines and all the ups and downs of schoolboy drama with good humour and kindness.

Richard was fully involved in the boarding life of the school and, together with his wife Valerie, ran that physically chilly boarding house, the Red House, with warmth and good humour from 1973 to 1990. He is also remembered as running the Tuck Shop from a nook under the main stairs, keeping meticulous accounts and ensuring an orderly queue by the invention of "crocodiles", a concrete threshold over which no-one stepped without invitation. Labour-saving organisation was a feature of this hard-working man's work ethic, especially in his approach to the necessary but tedious aspects of boarding, such as locking-up.

Winchester House has always been a strenuous school and Richard took a full part in the more outward bound part of the school's life. He went on camps to the Lake District and to Wales in minibuses of doubtful loyalty and coped with the vicissitudes of weather and terrain with aplomb. The canal expeditions were legendary, often comprising a flotilla of barely buoyant craft nursed through canals clogged by decades of neglect, old tyres and mattresses and with impeccable rendezvous with supply vehicles. Richard travelled hopefully and indefatigably, braving unshipped rudders and locks blocked by abandoned cars.

Then there was sport. Although not perhaps a natural athlete, Richard participated to the full, running Colts Hockey, Rugby and Cricket and being involved with Shooting. He turned out as an effective wicket-keeper for the Staff XI. Indeed, he was very proud of his achievement of an MCC coaching diploma and was delighted to receive as a retirement present an original painting of Bristol Cricket Ground by the England wicketkeeper-batsman Jack Russell, for it was on that ground where he gained his qualification.

Time catches up with everyone in the end and in 2001 Richard took his well-earned retirement, except he didn't really leave WHS. He was a well-known and well-loved figure still involved in cricket and regularly umpiring First XI matches in the elder-statesman manner of the great umpires who presided over county matches in his own youth: eagle-eyed, encyclopaedic in his knowledge of the Laws and utterly, uncompromisingly impartial. If he gave you out, you knew you were out. He applied the same meticulousness to his invigilation of Common Entrance exams, being a reassuring presence to nervous candidates, ensuring a calm atmosphere and presenting the completed scripts to the School Office in impeccable order, ready to be posted out.

Generations of Old Boys, or in the modern parlance, Housians of an older generation knew Richard as

the Secretary of the Winchester House Association and it was in this role that this writer first met him. He was grumbling at his recalcitrant computer at a table in Steptoe's Yard, peering out from racks of school uniforms like a badger nosing out of his sett. His greeting was affable and we later came to know each other much better as he provided some of the anecdotes for which he had been famous as the Elder Statesman of the Common Room. Later meetings took place in the small room next to the High Street gates, still with a cranky computer and still pursued by ranks of shirts and jackets.

Among Richard's stories was the true and terrifying account of the gas explosion in the Upper Lodge in 1968. He was always reluctant to talk in detail, but apparently during the conversion to North Sea Gas, the new natural gas had found a breach in the pipework

and had pooled under the floor of Donald Simpson's study in Upper Lodge. It was during investigation of the strange appearance of blue flames running along the gaps between floorboards that the explosive mixture ignited, propelling Richard "very gently" to the ceiling and back to earth. Finding himself wandering round the lawn, disoriented and doubtless concussed, he bravely re-entered the Lodge and brought out Donald Simpson, also in a bad way, and eventually discovered Dick Vernon buried under a heavy door. Fortunately, all three made excellent and full recoveries and lived to tell the tale, if reluctantly.

So we salute and bid farewell to Richard Murdin, modest Titan of Winchester House, guide and mentor to pupils and staff innumerable and true friend, and we send our condolences to Valerie and his daughters, Victoria and Patricia. [H](#)

Richard and Valerie Murdin with Housian Colin Harris at the Classic Car Show in 2019.



EARLY DRAYTON COTTAGE GIRLS

David and Thelma Jones moved into the Red House in 1962, later buying their own home in Brackley in 1972 and handing over the care of Red House to Richard and Val Murdin. Thelma later did a year's stint as School Matron for Richard Speight and Donald Simpson's first year while they looked for a replacement for Liz O'Sullivan who retired when they took over. Thelma then agreed to help them out with the start of the girls' boarding, and they were in Drayton Cottage for the first five years of the new venture, handing over to Debbie and Andrew Lewin. David used to create photo collages at the end of each term which he has kindly shared with house. The photo shows:-
Top row - Victoria S, Jemima C Anna G.
Middle- Kirsty H, Joanna H.
Bottom- Min S and Wiggy S.



SUMMER 1977



WHS Cathcart and David Townsend with Brackley public pool in the distance.



David, Adrian, Matthew Ball, James Ball and Conrad.



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SCHOOL NEWS

Despite the undulating restrictions placed on the educational sector during Covid, you will not be surprised to hear that life at Winchester House has continued apace. We hope you enjoy the following snapshot of School life. To keep up to date with our news on a daily basis, please follow us on Instagram at [winchesterhouseschool](#).

IGNITE

The Ignite speaker platform continues to go from strength to strength, with a fantastic line-up of speakers enthusing about their lives, careers and adventures. We have introduced Ignition talks where the speaker is invited to address specific year groups to illustrate the children's creative curriculum topic. We have welcomed a wide array of speakers including Housians, family relations as well as external speakers to School over the past year. **Should you wish to give an IGNITE talk at School, please contact Emma McGowan.**

Clarissa Ward, CNN's Chief International Correspondent and aunt of two WHS pupils, gave the first Ignite talk of the Summer Term 2021 from isolation in a hotel room in Greece on route home from covering the Covid pandemic in India. Clarissa told the children that she was completing her final year at Yale University when the 9/11 bombings occurred. From that moment onwards, she wanted to become an investigative journalist

and television presenter. For more than 16 years, Clarissa has reported from frontlines across the world from Syria and Afghanistan to the Yemen and Ukraine. She has won five Emmy awards, is fluent in French and Italian, conversational in Russian, Arabic and Spanish and is author of 'On All Fronts'. She reinforced the importance of listening; understanding both sides of a story and putting yourself out of your comfort zone.



Clarissa Ward.

Assistant Head, **James Martin** brought Seligman's 'Sail Away' creative curriculum topic to life with an Ignition talk on his career as a Lieutenant in the Royal Navy for 12 years; in HM Ships Campbeltown, Invincible, Liverpool, Hurworth, Nottingham, Severn, Clyde and Dragon and latterly as the Captain of Archer. He talked about why ships and the Navy are still important and discussed the similarities in navigational techniques now and



James Martin and students.

100 years ago. The children were fascinated and loved Mr Martin's naval memorabilia.

Photographer **Adam Sorenson** of Leftfield Images was responsible for photographing the 50 Paddington bear statues that were painted by celebrities and located throughout London in 2014. He even spent time with actor Hugh Bonneville whilst painting his Paddington in the studio. Adam gave an Ignition talk to Year 1 children, presenting his photographs via Googlemeet as part of their creative curriculum topic, 'Where Our Feet Take Us'.

Gemma Lewton, who worked at WHS in the catering department as a student member of staff, gave an Ignition talk to Years 3 & 4 as part of their 'Sail Away' creative curriculum about her experiences with the local Sea Cadets. The children loved trying on Gemma's uniform!



Trying out the Sea Cadet's hat.

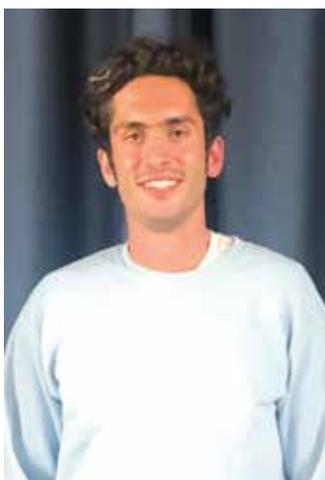


Paddingtons by London Bridge, photographed by Adam Sorenson.

Housian **Lawrence D'Silva (1996-2002)**, presenter, filmmaker and natural world specialist, gave an Ignite talk to the children and spoke about working as a safari guide in southern Africa and on renewable energy projects in the UK, to presenting on the BBC's One Show. Nature has always been his passion and Lawrence spoke about working on a new BBC studios documentary on biodiversity loss, presented by Sir David Attenborough. He made his

first wildlife documentary at the age of 13 on an ancient camcorder and encouraged the children to make short factual films on their chosen topics on their phones.

GB hockey player and our very own games/PE teacher, **Zoe James-Carter** (née Shipperley) spoke to the children about the importance of team work throughout all aspects of School life, from the sports fields and classrooms to boarding and leisure time.



Housian Lawrence D'Silva



Games/PE Zoe James-Carter.

She discussed how different personalities combine to make a team and how a community can work with each other to achieve the best results. Mrs J-C asked the children what their pledge to the WHS team would be? Her pledge to her 2016 GB hockey team was to consistently challenge herself and make the most of her resources. Mrs J-C said she still had lots to learn and always wants to be challenged. With a sporting career, including being a member of both the England and GB hockey teams, who better to talk about teamwork?

Housian and GB Olympic rower **James Rudkin (2002-2007)** returned to School fresh back from Tokyo with his bronze medal around his neck! James spoke about his first foray in a boat aged 7, his sporting ability whilst at

WHS, heading off to Stowe School where his love of rowing began to pick up steam, beginning to take the sport seriously whilst at Newcastle University and learning how to balance academics and sport, joining the Senior Olympic Rowing Squad after Rio in 2016, his daily GB rowing training regime, his thoughts when Tokyo 2020 was postponed and about the bronze medal he won in August 2021 in Tokyo in the men's eights (read James' on the Tokyo Olympics on page 22 of House).

Clare Balding, broadcaster, journalist and author, visited School to talk about her latest children's book 'Fall Off, Get Back On, Keep Going: 10 Ways to be at the Top of Your Game!'. Clare spoke about teenage tennis sensation Emma Raducanu and how she bounced back after her

4th round forfeit at Wimbledon against Ajla Tomjanovic to win the US Open at Flushing Meadows without dropping a set (having just completed A Levels in Maths and Economics). Clare also spoke about many other athletes and their quotes, with inspirational words from stars Marcus Rashford, Serena Williams, Venus Williams, Bethany Hamilton and Maya Angelou. Clare finished discussing your 'Cloak of confidence' and how most people focus on what they look like, when you should be focusing on what you feel like.

Emmanuel Jal gave an inspirational Ignite talk about his life's journey from his start as a child soldier in Sudan, to becoming an acclaimed recording artist and peace ambassador. He encouraged the children to think about what they want to achieve



James Rudkin with children on the Third Form Lawn.



Fiona Corthine, Clare Balding and Emma McGowan.



Emmanuel Jal outside the Reading Room with children.

in the future, to follow their dreams, to maintain a positive attitude, to dust themselves down from failure and not to worry about what other people think and say. Pupils and staff heard about the creation of his gluten free superfood powder Jal Gua and the creation in 2009 of his charity Gua Africa which supports those affected by war and poverty from South Sudan. For his outstanding commitment to peace building, Jal was been awarded the Vaclav Havel International Prize for Creative Dissent in 2018, the Desmond Tutu Reconciliation Award in 2017, Hero in the global campaign against violent extremism – UNESCO 2016 – and in 2012 was asked to be a Young Global Leader for the World Economic Forum.

Rebecca Clark, Head of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion at Stowe School and pupils **Amber**, **Precious** and **Sophie** spoke to the children about the importance of Black History Month and the



Rebecca Clarke with Stowe Pupils, Precious, Amber and Sophie.

prejudices they experienced whilst growing up in the UK. They gave an honest and thought provoking talk focusing on the equal importance of black and white history within our society and reiterated the importance of acting when witnessing or experiencing prejudice.

Historian, author, broadcaster and parent, **Dominic Sandbrook** gave an Ignite talk on WW1. The children listened intently as Mr Sandbrook described the reasons behind the start of WW1 and



showed photos of the war heroes and heroines. The Q&A at the end of the talk was peppered with fantastic questions ranging from ‘What is your favourite book?’ to ‘Who won the Battle of the Somme?’ Dominic then signed copies of his latest children’s book ‘Adventures in Time – The First World War’ which takes readers back in time to a world engulfed by war, from the soaring height of an airplane cockpit to the desperate depths of the enemy trenches.

Housian **Lt Comm Colin Harris** (1940–1945) returned to WHS for the first time in 22 months to speak to Year 7 children about life at WHS during WW2. He went on to read the Naval Prayer at the Act of Remembrance Service for which we are always very grateful.



Colin Harris with Year 7 children in Forum.

CHARITY

The children voted to support local charity BYHP (Banbury Young Homeless Project) throughout 2021 raising the grand total of £10,000 by December. Initiatives were varied, with all members of the School community embracing this fantastic, grass roots charity. Fundraising initiatives included:

VIRTUAL PET SHOW – fundraising for BYHP started with an online pet show during February 2021 half-term. With five entry categories – Best Trick, Waggiest Tail, Most Chewed Item, Most Obedient and Most Like Owner – we were flooded with photos and video footage of much loved pets! Entries ranged from dancing chickens to high speed hamsters, all of whom graced our

Instagram feed. The show brought welcome relief, much amusement and generated many donations whilst we all stayed at home. The winners were:

Waggiest Tail – Twiglet the wire haired Dachshund owned by Aggie (Year 8).

Smiliest Face – Woody the Cocker Spaniel owned by Tom (Year 5).

Most Obedient – Mabel the Labrador owned by George (Year 8).

Best Trick – Dibble the cuddling Great Dane, owned by Millie (Year 8).

Most Like Owner – Gracie the Labrador owned by Nina (Year 6).



Nina and Gracie.



Tom and Woody.

A NIGHT UNDER THE STARS – families camped out under the stars during the Easter holidays to raise funds and focus our minds on all aspects of sleeping rough.

THE D'ARCY DALTON WAY – in May 2021, 20 members of staff walked 20km from Wormleighton Reservoir to Epwell along this much loved local footpath. Despite scorching temperatures and the odd blister, great fun was had by all and over £2,000 was raised.



Fun in the sun, Staff on the D'Arcy Dalton Way.

CHANNEL SWIM – Year 8 leavers 2021 swam the equivalent distance of the English Channel. The Channel measures 33.3km which is the equivalent of 1,655 lengths of our outdoor 20 metre pool! With 48 Year 8 Leavers, they swam in relay teams to achieve their goal and enjoyed the spoils of a French café on 'reaching' France!

GROW A £2 – children in Pre-Prep were given a £2 coin and asked to grow it! With cake sales and sponsored activities, they raised over £1,300.

CHRISTMAS MARKET – over 30 stallholders, a huge amount of visitors and, miraculously, Father Christmas and his elves joined our Christmas Market. BYHP ran its own festive stall and all £5 adult entry fees were donated to the charity generating over £3,000.

HOUSIAN CAROL SERVICE – BYHP was the chosen charity for the collection at our annual alumni Christmas Carol Service held in the Stowe Chapel for the first time. Over £600 was generously donated by the congregation.

CHRISTMAS DINNER CAMPAIGN – Thomas Franks, our catering team, delivered 100 microwaveable Christmas dinners to BYHP for distribution to the homeless in Banbury.

Patrick Vercoe, Chief Executive of BYHP, wrote to Winchester House in November 2021 saying, 'At a time when all our fundraising activities have been curtailed because of Covid, Winchester House's



Pre-Prep making fairy cakes for Grow a £2.



Cookery Club making cookies for the Christmas Market.



Thomas Franks' Jon Cooper delivering Christmas meals to Linda Slide of BYHP.

support has been critical in helping maintain our financial income which has meant we can continue to help the 400 Young People who access our range of services for free each year. Myself and our staff really appreciate the commitment of Winchester House in assisting BYHP in this very tangible way. The excellent Christmas Market was another example of the enthusiastic support and dedication of your School.'

We continue to support the **BBC's Children in Need, Red Nose Day** and **NSPCC** with gusto. We have also created our very own **Snazztastic Sock Day** in memory of our former Head of ICT Chris Leach who died of cancer in March 2021. Needless to say, we all wear very silly socks and donate to Katharine House Hospice where Mr Leach passed away. We will continue to celebrate Mr Leach's life with an annual Snazztastic Sock Day when the great and good of everyone's sock drawers are aired!

SUZANNE KENNEDY'S MEMORY QUILT FOR THE LEACH FAMILY

Suzanne has always had a passion for textiles and in particular the historic craft art of quilt making. The quilt she made for the Leach family was intended as a representation of their family life, shared interests and individual passions that she hoped would serve as a positive reminder of the precious time they had together. Each element was carefully considered from using the colours of their favourite football team, shared family memories to inspirational words that summed up Chris, Tracey and their children. She sourced appropriate fabrics and had some of Chris's drawings together with her own watercolour representations of the wacky socks Chris used to wear printed on to fabric. Each square within the quilt had a personal meaning. Suzanne said, "I am by no means an expert at sewing and there



Blue lips for Children in Need.



Red Nose Day 2021.



Any array of snazztastic socks drawn by Suzanne Kennedy and inspired by Chris' socks.



The stunning Memory Quilt made by Suzanne Kennedy.

are plenty of areas of wonky stitching and not quite matched up seams. However handmade quilts are made and given with love and this was my heartfelt

tribute to Chris, a longstanding, fantastically supportive colleague and his family, who were such an important part of our Winchester House School community."

GENERAL NEWS THE HIGHLIGHTS

THE LUDI GAMES – In January 2021 it became clear that the June Expedition Week was not going to be the same as in previous years, as travelling far afield for overnight stays was not a possibility. It was time for the staff to put their thinking caps on and our Director of Music, Chris Price, thought back to his days working in a summer camp in New Hampshire, USA where they have a huge tournament every year called ‘Color Wars’. The WHS Ludi Games were born!

The general premise was that every child in Years 3-8 were split into their houses. Over the two days, the children competed in numerous activities, some physically testing, some performance related, some testing the mind. All parts of the two days were worth house points leading to a winner.

The mornings were full of short activities, where sub groups went head to head for 10 minutes before the air horn signalled it was time to move on. Some of the favourite activities were Scream Run, Commando and the Water Balloon Toss. Afterwards, the children moved on to House time where they painted themselves in House colours, created banners and started thinking about the House song they were to perform and the House plaque they were to create. The afternoon of Day one embraced a Bear Hunt where



members of the teaching staff dressed up as bears and hid around the school. Upon finding a bear, the children were asked to complete their task. For example, catching Lady McGowan ‘Running Bear’ gained you a point, children needed to solve Mr Girling’s Riddle Bear to gain a point and they had to say their name backwards to gain a point from Miss Holliday’s Word Bear. To end day one, the children took part in the Fire Relay

Race. Every house travelled over 1 km around the athletics field going over and under with a ball, culminating in the nominated staff house members starting a fire and trying to burn a rope 1 metre up.

Day two started with smaller group activities. It was brilliant to see the human pyramids, blindfolded assault courses and human knots challenged everyone. The Doughnut Eating Competition was

fiercely competitive with everyone trying to eat a whole doughnut off the table without using their hands! The children moved onto relay races – finishing with the Slip and Slide Relay Race (a favourite with the staff who squirted the children with water cannons and threw water balloons). Thomas Franks made delicious picnic lunches over the two days, the only twist being that the first 20 minutes of lunch were silent. Inter-house Tug of War was held after lunch with cheering reaching a new level. Day two finished with Mrs Goldsmith judging the House Songs and House Plaque.

The two days were embraced with great team spirit, sportsmanship and enthusiasm, and the tension was palpable as Mr Price announced the final totals. Even though Leachman had a great plaque and song, it was only enough to come second, with Priestland being crowned LUDI champions. Huge thanks go to Mr Price for masterminding and directing a fantastic two days which saw the children build new friendships, develop leadership skills, let off steam and have oodles of fun!

WINNING HOUSE TRIP –

Priestland was the winning house in the Summer Term with an average of 60.73 points per child and headed off to Milton Keynes' Willen Lake for an afternoon of water-based fun. Gascoigne came second with 59.89 points per

child, Leachman came third with 56.73 points and Bryant came fourth with 53.98 points. Inter-house competition and rivalry remains high!

EXTRAVAGANZA – with school trips and Learn to Lead expeditions considerably scaled back during the Summer Term, it was felt by the Friends of WHS that the much loved Extravaganza should become a showstopper! Giant (and we mean giant) inflatables were erected on

the athletics track, with children whooping with delight as they enjoyed the It's a Knock Out style games including heading at speed down an inflatable slide to dodging the swinging arm! Needless to say great fun was had by all. Big thanks to Sarah Smith for organising the event with Class Reps.

TURRETS & TIARAS – Pre-Prep children studied Turrets and Tiaras as their creative curriculum topic in the Michaelmas Term. The



Inflatables at the Extravaganza.



Priestland children on the Bear Hunt.



Pre-Prep staff wore fabulous costumes for the Turrets and Tiaras medieval banquet.

term culminated with a medieval banquet where the children and staff dressed in medieval costumes and ate lunch with their fingers!

STOWE CLIMATE ACTION

CONFERENCE – Stowe held a Climate Action Conference on the 15th October 2021. The event was attended by Prep and Senior school pupils who listened to an amazing array of speakers including the Executive Director of Green Peace John Sauven, Sir Ed Davey MP and TV presenter Michaela Strachan. They had a live demo by BBC Zero-Waster Chef, Max La Manna, and activity sessions giving students practical ideas to take back to School.

BONFIRE NIGHT – the Friends of WHS did not disappoint with the most amazing firework display set to music and lighting up the night sky. With children wielding glow sticks, enjoying gallons of hot chocolate with marshmallows and squirty cream as well as some mulled wine for parents and staff,

the event was very much enjoyed by all (and it didn't rain)!

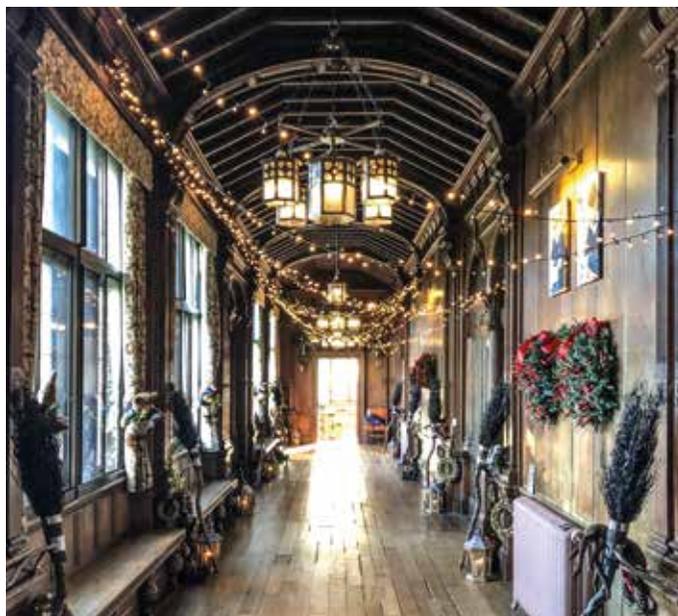
ACT OF REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

– alumni, members of BCDFC, care homes and places of assisted living, joined children and staff at our Act of Remembrance Service on 11th November. Alumnus Lt

Commander Colin Harris (1940-1945) read a poem. Prior to the service Colin Harris conducted a Q&A with Emma McGowan and Year 7 pupils regaling tales of life at WHS during WW2. Head Girl Victoria and Head Boy Ben then laid the WHS wreath on the remembrance cross which had recently been renovated by Head of DT Martin Scouse. The memorial garden outside the Upper Lodge continues to mark the names of Housians who have fallen during war.

HARRY POTTER CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

– enormous thanks go once again to parent and interior designer Katharine Pooley, who cast her magic wand over WHS and transformed School into a Harry Potter themed Christmas wonderland. With Nimbus 2000



Oak Corridor, Harry Potter style.

broomsticks and Harry Potter house flags lining the Oak Corridor, numerous trees adorned with Harry Potter and The Grinch (Pre Prep) memorabilia, mantle pieces groaning under the weight of beautiful decorations and the front and High Street facades and cedar trees lit with tiny lights, the School was a sight to behold.

DRAMA & MUSIC

The Summer Term saw the return of drama performances and musical concerts which were held in the Sports Day marquee for ventilation purposes. The Year 6 children performed Mr Ponder's play 'The Kid Who Fell into a Story' which was packed full of songs, dance routines and plenty of dad jokes! It was a tricky script to bring to life, needing good pacing, humour and physical acting, and the Year 6 cast did an amazing job. Year 7 children performed 'Matilda the Musical' to critical acclaim with the musical's soundtrack being sung around School for weeks afterwards.

Seligman children put on the most fabulous production of the musical 'Pirates vs Mermaids'. The marquee came alive with catch-of-the-day songs, feisty mermaids and swaggering pirates.

The Year 8 soiree did not disappoint with amazing solo and group performances (to name a few) by all including William on the bagpipes, Maisy singing 'Colour Blind', Mrs Goldsmith turning into Scottish Head 'Mrs Goldsmyth', Thalia and Flora's demo of how to be a successful surgeon, Holly sung and played

'Seven Minutes' on the piano, Alessandro played Samba Time on the drums, Bruno and George performed 'The Last Supper', Flora and Maisy sang Hamilton's 'Dear Theodosia', the boys' band performed 'Highway to Hell', Violet sung and played 'Fly Me to the Moon' on the piano, Aggie and Fred performed 'Bookshop', Flora P performed 'Beautiful Strangers' on her guitar, Alfie, Oscar, Sonny, Alessandro and Toby wrote a skit on the Rugby World Cup 2023 and Emily, Holly, Amelia, Maisy and Flora M and Flora P performed 'Six Wives' from the musical 'Six'.



The Kid Who Fell Through A Story.



Matilda The Musical.



Pirates vs Mermaids.



Above, top, top right and right: The Year 8 Soiree, July 2021.

HOUSE SHOUT

The House Shout continues to be one of the highlights of the School year and on the Friday before Lent half term, the children donned their house colours and, led by their Head of House and Year 8s, battled it out in the Spo with their chosen song. Judged by the Heads of Houses' parents – namely Mrs McClure in green for Gascoigne, Housian Mr Heygate (who, like his daughter, was in Bryant), Mrs James in illuminous yellow representing Leachman and Mrs Ingrey-Senn in an inflatable red morph suit for Priestland – the audience was treated to a musical feast. Bryant re-wrote the words to the Proclaimer's 'I'm Gonna



Our House Shout parent judges.

Be (500 Miles)', Gascoigne took to the stage with Abba's Dancing Queen, Priestland performed Sweet Caroline with true Neil Diamond swagger and Leachman got the audience (which included Housians from the Class of 2021) clapping and stomping to Queen's We Will Rock You. After much deliberation, Bryant were crowned the House Shout winners of 2022.



CLUBS

The staff body continues to offer an array of over 50 enticing clubs and activities which take place at 5pm after lessons with the exception of Wednesdays. Activities range from Mr Silman's skiing at the Milton Keynes Snow Dome and golf, Lady

McGowan's Whippets running club, Miss Noakes' Polo Club at Oxford Polo, Miss Holiday's 'It's Raining Cats & Dogs', Mr Miller's Gardening Club, Mrs Kennedy's Quilt Making and Miss Redrup's Wildlife Club to Ms Lee's Card Sharks and Thomas Franks' Cookery Club. [H](#)



Polo Club



Ski Club



Cookery Club



Whippets



Wildlife Club



CLASS OF TWENTY ONE

The Class of 2021's extensive leavers' programme masterminded by Mrs Warren and Lady McGowan kicked off straight after the final CE exam ended, with the presentation of leavers' hoodies, followed by a pool party and a barbeque on the Third Form Lawn on Friday 11th May. There was food as far as the eye could see, with Emma Danby and Dawn White making two enormous celebration cakes.

The first full week of the programme kicked off with an 8km hike from School to the McGowan's house at Upper Astrop. The children were accompanied by Mr Silman and Stowe School sixth formers (including Housian Barnaby Peppiatt) and were ably supported by Mrs Hughes. The hike tested the children's navigational skills and, once they reached the promised-land, they enjoyed a delicious barbeque provided by the Thomas Franks

catering staff and cooked by Year 8 mothers. The afternoon was spent embracing teambuilding and problem solving activities.



The next few days were filled with school-based activities including a senior school transition morning, where the children spoke to sixth formers and boarding house parents, experienced GCSE style lessons in English, biology and PE, attended a relationship and sex education talk with 'It Happens' and played cricket matches. There was, of course, the highly anticipated trip to Thorpe Park, and Year 8's physical capabilities were tested with a trip to Pinnacle Climbing Centre in Northampton.

The children's performing arts skills were channelled by James Gillam of Fabula Arts with the challenge of creating a play in a week. The Year 8s rose to the task, putting on a performance inspired by the tales of Paddington Bear. Next came expeditions week, which started with two days of dinghy sailing at Oxford Sailing Club, followed by a further two days embracing Mr Price's inaugural Ludi Games. The final day of the week was spent creating and performing the Year 8

Soiree, which was a dramatic and musical feast.

The final week saw the children raise money for the School's charity, Banbury Young Homeless Project, by taking on the challenge of swimming the equivalent distance of the English Channel in the School pool. Next up, was an afternoon at Top Jump Inflatable Park in Milton Keynes followed by a day with Governor Patrick Bradshaw who created a mentally challenging



Thorpe Park outing.



The Bradshaws at the Yr8 vs parents cricket match.



The Pinnacle Climbing Centre.



Top Jump inflatable park.

Dragon's Den style activity. The much anticipated activities of the last week of term, notably the Gappers' Challenge, trip up the Tower, black tie Section Supper, unveiling of the Leavers' Brick Wall, Leavers' Ball and Leavers' book and shirt signing, kept the children busy, finishing with Final Assembly, Prize Giving and the Leavers' Service.



Sailing at the Oxford Sailing Club.

LEAVERS' TREES

At the end of the Lent Term, Year 8 children were given their leavers' tree to take home and plant. The children had a choice of three trees and were quick to plant them out.



Violet Barker with her brick.



Wilf Milligan with his brick.



Jemima Latham.



Emily Sharman.



Oliver Bird.



Captains of the Ludi House teams, Flora McGowan, Aggie Fagan, Alessandro Papagni and Hamish Miller Edge.



Thalia Douglas.



Oscar Danby.



Film in a Week with James Gillam of Fabula Art.



Bruno Bradshaw and Harry Dawes.



CE RESULTS

The Class of 2021 gathered on the Third Form Lawn to receive their impressive CE Results

enabling them to move on to their first choice senior schools. Their results were particularly

impressive as they had spent two terms learning from home. Very well done to the Class of 2021.

SCHOLARS PROGRAMME

Whilst the majority of Year 8 embarked on their Common

Entrance exams, academic scholars Thalia, Jemima, Hamish, Maisy and Arthur (CE pass to Eton) embarked on a three day

programme of activities from 8th to 10th June 2021. On the first day, Lady McGowan, Mr Silman and parent, Mrs Douglas, drove the children into central London in the School minibus. With temperatures soaring above 30 degrees, the party visited Tate Modern and were joined by parent and artist Mrs Guinness who gave them a thorough tour of 'Collection Route: All Tate Modern Collections'. Andrea Leadsom MP then joined the group in the shade of the Emily Pankhurst statue to talk about the plight of the suffragettes and explain the workings of the House of Commons.



Touring the Tate Modern with Nancy Guinness.

The second day was spent cooking with tennis coach and chef supremo, Emma Danby, who taught them to cook a selection of delicious dishes including Asian salad, ginger & lime chicken, sausage rolls, chocolate cake,



A quick break at Trafalgar Square.



Cooling down at a gelateria.

lemon drizzle cake and pesto. The afternoon was spent honing their tennis skills. The scholars spent their final day with standing structures expert Paul McGarrity of Mola UK, who talked about the application of archaeological processes at the iron-age hill fort under excavation at Upper Wardington. In the afternoon, the scholars reviewed the architectural ages of the main School building. **H**



The scholars with Paul McGarrity of Mola UK.



With Andrea Leadsom by the Emily Pankhurst statue.

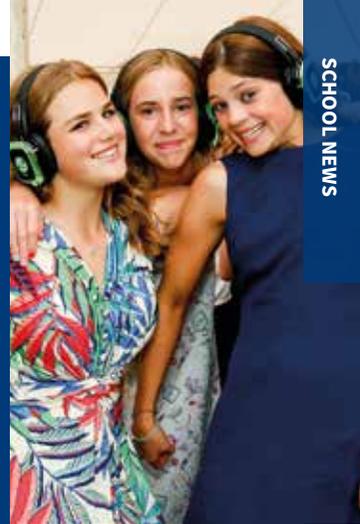


The Millennium Bridge.



LEAVERS' BALL 2021





TIME FOR CHANGE

By the time the children leave WHS, they have formed very strong bonds not only with their peer group and other children throughout School but with the staff and wider School community too. Housians regularly keep in touch and we are always delighted to receive their latest news and photos. We were so pleased to receive photos of the Class of 2021 looking very grown up in their new senior school uniforms. 



Rugby



Stowe



Downe House



Teddies



Rugby



Oundle



Rugby



Bloxham



Uppingham



Teddies



Teddies



Cheltenham



Stowe



Teddies



Stowe



Oundle



Teddies



Oundle



Uppingham



Oundle

LEAVERS' DESTINATIONS AND SCHOLARSHIPS



Chloe Barker Tudor Hall

Violet Barker Downe House

Holly Bateman Uppingham
*Sport and a special award
from Uppingham for excellent
performance in CE*

Oliver Bird Uppingham

Bruno Bradshaw Rugby

Will Clarke-Williams St Edwards

Millie Colebrook Stowe

Alfie Corthine Stowe

Patrick Craig Rugby

Oscar Danby Teddies

Harry Dawes Bloxham

Olive de Courcy-Ireland Stowe

Alfie Dicks Bloxham

Thalia Douglas Rugby
Academic Scholarship

Oscar Dunipace Stowe
Sport Scholarship

George Emerson Stowe

Edward Eyetan Oundle

Aggie Fagan Rugby

Lara Fletcher St Edward's

William Glencairn-Campbell
Oundle

Sonny Goode Bloxham
Sport Scholarship

Shunxi Guan Oundle

Arthur Guinness Eton

Millie Hartigan St Edward's

Katinka Hewetson Tudor Hall

Henry James Rugby

Luca James St Edward's

Taylor Jankord Returning to USA

Tom Kingerlee Bloxham

Jemima Latham St Edward's
Brewer Williams Academic

Thomas Li Oundle

Alexander Loudon Radley

Luke Mayo Stowe
Sport Scholarship

Flora McGowan Rugby
Performing Arts Scholarship

Hamish Miller Edge
West Buckland
Academic and Music Scholarship

Wilfred Milligan Rugby

Alessandro Papagni St Edwards

Flora Peppiatt Stowe
Roxburgh Scholarship

Alex Richards Stowe
Stephan Scholarship

Fred Rowbotham St Edward's

George Rutherford Stowe

Emily Sharman Teddies

Lucy Southan Teddies

Amelia Voute Downe House

Cate Wakeford Oundle
Sport Scholarship

Maisy White Cheltenham College
Academic and Drama Scholarship

Henry Whiteley Bloxham

ADDITIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Archie Trotman Stowe
*Awarded a retrospective Sports
Scholarship, 2021*

Sasha Wakeford Oundle
Sports Scholarship, 2020

STAFF NEWS

TRIBUTE TO EMMA GOLDSMITH

by Richard Greaves, Former Chair of Governors

In my farewell speech to Emma Goldsmith, I commented that hers would be very difficult shoes to fill – in more ways than one. Our “Head in Heels” as she was known on social media was renowned for her stylish range of footwear. But in the colloquial sense of the phrase I knew she would be a very hard act to follow.

In paying tribute to her and everything she did for Winchester House, I want to start with the most important people in the school – the pupils. Not only was Emma an extremely talented teacher, she was also enormously popular with the boys and girls. They had tremendous respect for her. She endeared herself to them by being a good listener, by being perceived as fair, reasonable and friendly, and by taking part in so many of their activities - including dressing up in extraordinary costumes, seemingly at the first possible excuse.

To parents, Emma was the constant reassurance that their children were in safe hands, that they would learn to enjoy learning, and receive a high quality education both inside and outside the classroom. And above all that they would be happy at school.



To staff she was an outstanding and inspirational leader, using her great talents as a first class communicator and motivator, a well-informed strategic planner, and an innovator. She led with confidence, care and that wonderfully persuasive smile.



One of her most significant achievements was to put in place a highly efficient and effective management team capable of stepping into her shoes – well, perhaps not those shoes!

Emma's contribution to the school has been enormous and always driven by what she believed to be best for the pupils, their parents and the future success of Winchester House. Difficult decisions had to be made not least about Saturday school and the formation of the Stowe Group. In each case nothing was done or presented to the governing body until she had undertaken her own thorough research and after sounding out all those who may be affected. I cannot thank her enough.

As Chair of Governors she was a pleasure to work with – a good listener as well as an excellent communicator. She presented reasoned and well explained proposals, but was always open to challenge and modification, and led stimulating discussions.



It came as no surprise to any of us that she was voted Prep School Head of the Year. In my view she should have won it every year. We have all been so fortunate to have her as Head of Winchester House School and wish her every success in her new role. [H](#)

THANK YOU KATY DALLIMORE

by Richard Greaves, Former Chair of Governors

I would like to give an enormous thank you and congratulations to Katy Dallimore who took on the role of Acting Head, for the Michaelmas Term between Emma's departure and Antonia's arrival. It was something of a baptism of fire with the prospect of an overdue inspection and the enormous disruption caused by the ongoing pandemic, in addition to more than her fair share of the usual problems faced by a Prep School head. She rose to the challenge magnificently and her contribution was recognised at the end of term service at which she was given a standing ovation by staff, parents and pupils alike. [H](#)



FOND FAREWELLS

THANK YOU TO RETIRING GOVERNORS

by Richard Greaves, Former Chair of Governors

Following the formation of The Stowe Group, the Governors of Winchester House School stepped down, and their roles were taken over by the Governors of Stowe School. The retirement of this excellent group of people cannot pass without recognising and appreciating the enormous contribution they have made to the school during their many years on the board. Governors are unpaid volunteers, who devote their time and expertise to monitoring, supporting, guiding and inspiring the school. They ensure that high standards are maintained and that the school's ethos is both preserved and enhanced. All of those now retiring deserve credit and thanks for having undertaken these responsibilities so well. Thanks to their hard work and dedication, the school continues to provide an excellent education for its pupils, both inside and outside the classroom, and its reputation as one of the country's leading prep schools has continued to grow.

On behalf of the pupils, parents, staff and everyone connected with the school, may I convey an enormous thank you to Louise Brownhill, Bridget Burnet, John Floyd, Bob Heygate, John Moule, Tom Purton and Martin Wetherill, for their invaluable contributions to the governance of Winchester House School. As part of the formation of the Group, Rupert Fordham, Patrick Bradshaw and myself joined the Stowe Governing Body where we will continue to work in the best interests of Winchester House.

And I am delighted to say that some of the former governors – Bridget Burnet, John Floyd, Bob Heygate and Martin Wetherill – remain on an advisory board of the school for the next few years so that their knowledge and expertise can still be drawn upon

when necessary. This has been particularly useful during the school closure brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic. Whilst change is sometimes necessary, the work of the past should never be forgotten. Thank you to you all retiring governors for the part you have played in Winchester House's success, and for your help in securing its future.



TIM DUNN

In autumn 2021, Tim Dunn, Head of Maintenance, decided to move on to pastures new due to personal circumstances following two incredibly difficult years. Tim started at WHS in 2006 and was

promoted to Head of Maintenance in 2011. Tim was a committed team leader who went above and beyond to keep the community safe and the site looking as good as possible. Tim is a keen golfer and was a founding member of the WHS Wapiti Golf Society who played together regularly. We wish him all the best for the future.

CRAIG AND SHELLEY IRVINE

Craig and Shelley Irvine joined School in 2014; Shelley as an Assistant House Parent of boys' boarding and a PE and games teacher from EYFS to Year 8, and Craig as an academic and games teacher in the Upper School. In 2016, they jointly took on the role of House Parents of House, with Shelley becoming Head of Boarding in 2019. Their hockey coaching expertise came to the fore straight away, with Shelley coaching the U13 girls' and boys' 1st VII teams, and Craig coaching the U11 girls' and boys' hockey A teams with considerable success at both IAPs and at inter-school matches. One of Shelley's highlights was in March 2020 when both girls' and



boys' 1st hockey Vlls won their respective Midlands In2Hockey tournaments on the same day. Many of their hockey players have gone on to represent their senior schools, county and region. The Irvines also became heavily involved in the school's charitable fundraising initiatives, masterminding many a successful challenge including the Winchester to Winchester House sponsored bike ride and sponsored walks along the D'Arcy Dalton Way and Flora Thompson Way. Their themed Section Suppers were always much enjoyed by the children, with themes ranging from Victorian times to Scottish ceilladhs. We wish them luck in their new adventures.



CRAIG JENNINGS

Craig gave eight years of service to WHS, travelling weekly from his home in the Brecon Beacons in his trusty yellow van. During his time at WHS, Craig taught science and maths but his real joy was teaching physics. He was heavily involved in coaching rugby, hockey and cricket and led many a Learn to Lead Exhibition. He was a member of the staff band and choir and has taught many a child to start a fire in his Fire Starters Club. His infectious enthusiasm for life is very much missed. We wish Craig a very long and happy future in Carmarthenshire, spending time with his growing family. See more in Craig's Staff Focus on page 92.



BEV MCELVAINE

Bev McElvaine arrived at Winchester House in 2014 as an Accounts Clerk and made herself an integral part of the Winchester House community immediately. She took part in numerous charity events and her sense of humour and cheery personality cheered up many a colleague. Bev is sorely missed by her friends and we wish her well in her retirement.

CHARLIE PONDER

Charlie Ponder joined WHS in April 2020, meeting his drama and English students via Google meet during the first lockdown. His energy levels were apparent on screen and, in his subsequent three terms (a



second being spent online), he made his impact on the Drama Department. He created Drama Live in December 2020, which was live streamed to families, and created numerous stage

opportunities for all year groups during the Summer Term of 2021. He enjoyed coaching rugby, hockey and cricket, and was a lively member of the staff band. Winchester House's loss is the Dragon's gain.



SAM STOOP

Sam gave 12 years of service to WHS as a member of the Games Department and as Director of Sport. Sam's passion is rugby and in 2016 he coached the 1st XV to the final of

the National Schools' U13 Rugby Cup where, after

a thrilling game watched by the children and staff of WHS, they lost to Whitgift 30-15. He was also integral in reviving the house system by introducing the weekly house point heroes and initiatives which enhance the house system. He also oversaw the very complex job of organising clubs and activities; at one stage peaking at 46 different activities across the week for children to choose from. We wish Sam all the very best in his new ventures which include coaching rugby at Teddies and creating and running



1st XV Team in front of the stadium post-match.



Official Opening of the Astro, Sept 2014, Sam Stoop, Storm Sunderland, Nick Thompson, Mark Seymour, Helen Richardson Walsh and Emma Goldsmith.

SJS Sports Camps. His family, Mrs Stoop, Jasmine and Scarlett, remain very much part of the School community.



SAM WEBSTER-SMITH

Sam joined WHS in 2018 as Gardener and embraced his role with energy and enthusiasm. Sam went above and beyond his job description getting involved in the Pumpkin Festival (he sourced a

50kg organic pumpkin from Stowe Gardens so the children could enjoy pumpkin soup), tended and developed the Secret Garden, took great care with the Remembrance Garden, ensured the Pavilion was surrounded by summer blooms and helped Katharine Pooley greatly with her spectacular Christmas decorations. Sam left WHS bound for the Isle of Wight with his family and a new life by the sea. We wish them all the very best and are delighted that his mother Jackie Mortimer remains a key member of Brackley's Royal British Legion.

GAPPERS



Gabe Connelly



Annie Hunter



James Freeman



Chrissie White

GABE CONNELLY, JAMES FREEMAN AND ANNIE HUNTER

Big thanks to our amazing Gappers; Gabe Connelly, James Freeman and Annie Hunter. Their enthusiasm, can do attitude and sense of fun were appreciated by all.

CHRISSIE WHITE

After leaving WHS in 2016 bound for Bloxham School, Chrissie returned to School as a Gapper, with duties throughout School and within Drayton. In September 2022, Chrissie enrolled at Bristol University to study drama having travelled the world. [H](#)

WARM WELCOMES



DANIELA BARTON,
Pre-Prep Learning
Development



JON COOPER,
Thomas Franks
Catering Manager



ALEX FARMER,
Thomas Franks Chef



BEN GEORGE,
Director of Rugby



ELLA GONZALEZ,
Head of Girls'
Games



**SOPHIE
HULSTON, EYFS**



NICK MILLER,
Head of ICT



VERITY REDRUP,
Science Teacher



**SHAWN
ROBINSON, Head
of Maintenance**



EMILY WEBB,
Gap assistant



**NATALIE
WILSON, Head of
Geography**

ANNOUNCEMENTS



MISS BELL BECOMES MRS FINLEY

We are delighted to announce that Miss Rachel Bell was married on 8th August 2021 at Dodford Manor surrounded by family and friends. After waiting an extra 15 months to

get married, the happy couple finally became Mr and Mrs Finley. Their day was filled with joy, smiles and laughter.



ZOE SHIPPERLEY WEDDING

Zoe Shipperley, Games and PE, married her fiancé Luke James-Carter on 29th May 2021 in Marsh Gibbon Church. Former WHS pupil Tristan was her page boy, his sister Ellie (Year

3) was bridesmaid and her Ridgeback, Ruby, was her flower dog. Zoe and Luke held the wedding in a teepee in Zoe's parents' garden.



RUTH TUCK

Ruth Tuck, Head of Maths and Head of Years 3 and 4, became engaged to Chris Howell on 21st January 2021 while in Cornwall. They plan to get married in summer 2023.



RORY GRAY

Mr and Mrs Gray are delighted to announce the birth of their second grandchild. Rory Gray was born on the 16 January 2022, weighing in at 5lbs 11oz and is the second son of Mr Daniel and Mrs Nicola Gray (who works in Pre-Prep as an EYFS practitioner), and is the younger brother of Finley.



RICHARD AYRES

Richard joined the Housekeeping team at WHS in 2013 and instantly became a much valued, hardworking and cheerful member of the team. During his later years at WHS, Richard fought cancer valiantly and, even when very poorly, his ambition was always to return to work. He died on 23rd August 2021 and is very much missed by his colleagues and friends. Our thoughts and prayers are with Richard's family.



LUNA AND DANCER THE DALMATIANS

Luna, the Dalmatian of Martin and Judy Roberts, had eight puppies during the night of Sunday 12th September; three boys and four girls. Their great-grandmother Dancer witnessed the birth but sadly passed away, aged nearly sixteen, in January 2022. A great age for a big dog.

STAFF FOCUS

Craig Jennings

PHYSICS TEACHER



August 2013 started badly. I had been made redundant, due to restructuring, after my school had gone into administration and, at the prime age of 51, I was facing the prospect of long term unemployment. Future opportunities looked bleak but after several unsuccessful applications I discovered an advert in the TES for a prep school physics teacher. I didn't hesitate in applying, even though the school was so far from home. The interview went well and when I took the tour and was told of all the opportunities the pupils had access to, the activities they could undertake and their enthusiasm for (and attitude towards) learning I was bowled over! I must have done something right, the offer of a post was made and with the, reserved,

blessing of my wife and children we decided to 'make a go of it'.

With only two weeks to prepare before the start of term it was rather hectic. Shopping for household items, preparing for teaching and moving into school accommodation passed in the 'blink of an eye' and, up until now, I still had only met two people. I needn't have worried, the welcoming community and energetic, but polite, pupils soon put any concerns, I might have had, at ease.

I had initially thought that, after teaching at secondary level, this new post would be 'a walk in the park': no raging hormones, less pressure on the children, a timetable that gave me more time to prepare. I hadn't counted on either the enthusiasm of the children or the intense pressure they put themselves under to get to their chosen school; that, in turn, motivated me to prepare to the best of my ability, spending long evenings in the Physics Laboratory preparing lesson plans for the following week.

In my first year I taught Year 5 science and maths and physics to Years 6, 7 and 8. I coached rugby, hockey and cricket teams taking them on several fixtures. I had joined the staff band and choir and was in danger of becoming an entertainer, but before I knew it the year was over. By now, I had tried several different commutes between school and the Brecon Beacons and had really settled into the weekly routine. On the weekends when I didn't travel home I explored the local area with my wife and family: Banbury, Oxford, Stowe Gardens and other National Trust properties, Northampton, Warwick, Chipping Norton, Evenley, Turweston to name a few; enjoying retail therapy, visiting local attractions, walking the local footpaths and, of course, sampling the local hostelries.

The years rolled on in much the same format and maths was replaced with Year 4 science, policies were tweaked and procedures were changed, old



friends and colleagues left and new ones arrived. The staff band and choir faded away but throughout it all the children were a reliable constant: enthusiastic, energetic, inquisitive, conscientious and hardworking. I thoroughly enjoyed the teaching along with all the 'extras': chapel, fire-starting, fireworks, Advent fair, Christmas shopping with the boarders, end of term tutor parties, services in St Peter and St James Church, 'opt in' weekends, match fixtures (for pupils and staff) science trips, concerts, school plays, section suppers and the school ball; all the great things a great school should have. Admittedly, COVID has curtailed some of these great events but much has remained intact through sound, calm, leadership and the Herculean efforts of the teaching and support staff at WHS. It maybe that COVID never goes away; but I am sure, with its past record and holding on to the values of the Winchester House Way, Winchester House School has the resilience to adapt, improvise and overcome any problems it encounters.

It has been an honour and privilege teaching at 'probably the best prep school in the country'. I will miss all of it: friends and colleagues, pupils and

parents, lessons and events; but, hopefully, I will be able to keep up with all the news through the wonders of the internet.

Floreat Domus! 



Craig Jennings' old front door, 2017.



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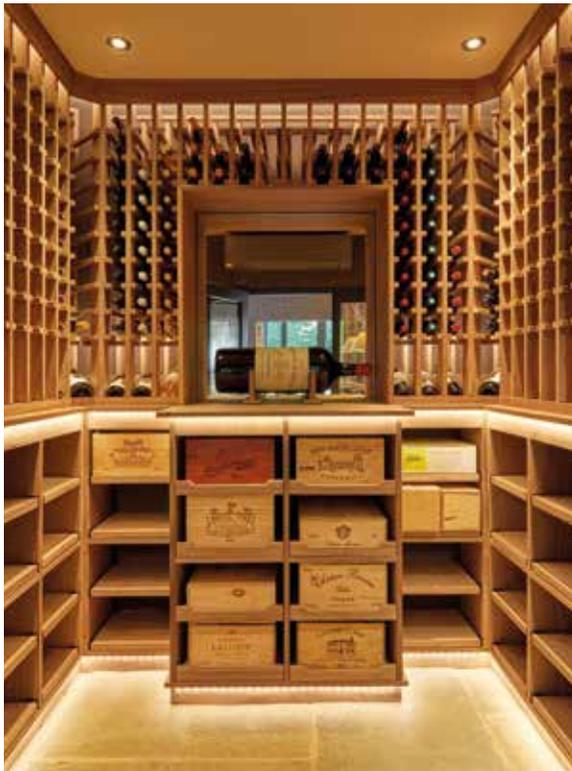
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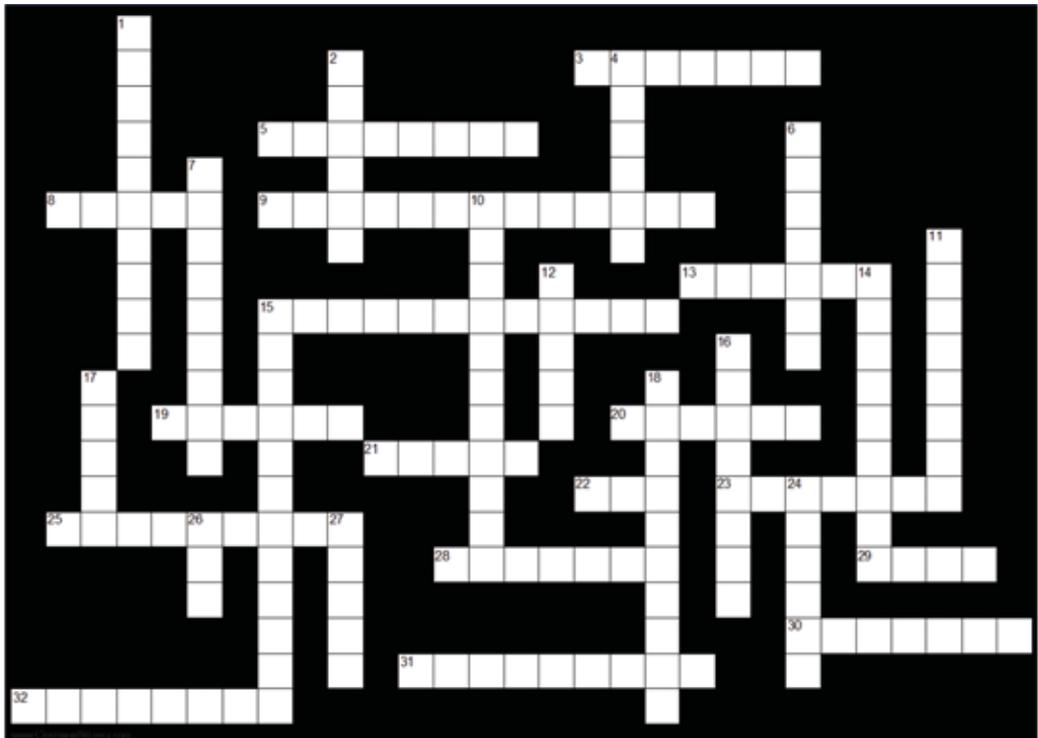
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HOUSE CROSSWORD by Nik Miller, Head of ICT



ACROSS

- 3 Bubbles and chunders, we heard in a school lab! (7)
- 5 Old WHS site is Kenneth's plot (8)
- 8 Educational establishment takes stash with direction! (5)
- 9 Northward film about patch of grass? (5,4,4)
- 13 I motor erratically to find computers (2,4)
- 15 We might find a future SW15 champion here, but not on trial (6,6)
- 19 English guy and the Spanish form place for the devout (6)
- 20 Blue House hidden in Aubry Antiques shop! (6)
- 21 Subject resides inside flat in Northamptonshire (5)
- 22 Confederate general assumes leading role (3)
- 23 "I, Shorty, destroyed the past". A Subject? (7)
- 25 Did previous head have a Midas touch? (9)
- 28 Insect summer sport. (7)
- 29 Former WHS site has echoes of card play (4)
- 30 Sensory information includes short exercise to make head (7)
- 31 We hear the eponymous head of house has a shilling for the meter (9)
- 32 3s and 4s base left in enigma's confusion? (8)
- 7 Peg hag, Roy confused for locational subject (9)
- 10 England's tree lines our eating venue (3,8)
- 11 Restore lyre back to name present site (8)
- 12 SP503747 (Sport) (5)
- 14 Confused Roman Dora flanks WHS (5,4)
- 15 ///mirror.rust.etchings (3,8)
- 16 Edwardian head is a mediaeval doctor, we hear? (8)
- 17 Joint and mail centre make pachyderm (5)
- 18 Cleric and glebe together produce a House (10)
- 24 Orange flavoured racquets? (6)
- 26 Ops back sports venue (3)
- 27 Garden implement absorbs us to make reading material (5)

DOWN

- 1 Bad news about ban over our member of Stowe Group (10)
- 2 X direction is a summer sport! (6)
- 4 Head is fodder producing human (6)
- 6 Head is heard to have superior vision! (7)

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