





# Old Herefordians' Newsletter 2010



HCS Archive  
Memories...

What have you got in  
your archive?

If you can name any  
of the faces in these  
photographs,  
please get in touch.



## OH News

**President's Report**

**2010 has so far been a busy and productive year for the OH Committee.**

Our priority this year has been the redesign of OH website. The new-look website has been improved and upgraded, allowing easier information access for our members. If you haven't done so already, please take a look and register as a member:

[www.ohclub.co.uk](http://www.ohclub.co.uk).

Many thanks to Juliette Austen Chandler and Helen

Pearson who have put a tremendous amount of work into the OH Archive project which is now successfully digitising the history of the school and club. Alongside this, we have recently obtained a prominent room in Number One building for further OH use. Report on page 50.

The London dinner in April was the last organised by Richard Buckeridge and I would like to thank him for his time and effort in arranging these reunion dinners over so many years. The event will be organised from the Hereford end next year, the format being similar to previous years.

Thanks also to Peter Fairman-Bourn who continues to organise the London Lunch reunions.

The Regatta was a great success again this year and I was back in a boat again myself after a ten-year gap! I am pleased to report that the coxed-fours event was won by an OH team.

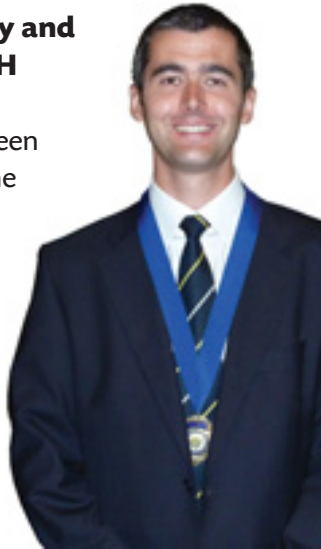
I presented scarves and ties to the 5th and 6th form leavers and this year I have asked for representatives from the years to keep in contact with the club to ensure regular updates of stories and information from recent leavers.

OH Day will be held on Saturday 4 December. As ever, this remains the major event in the Old Herefordians' calendar and it provides OHs, both old and young, with an opportunity to meet old friends as well as indulge in a little school nostalgia. Last year we held an informal evening meal at the Castle House; this was a great success and we hope more OHs will wish to join us this year for a delicious meal and good company.

My thanks go to all the OH Committee for their hard work, and especially to Mark Ellis for his continued support and to Jon Webb for keeping all the finances in order.

Clare Adamson, the editor, has again put a huge amount of work into this magazine and my thanks go to her. Of course this magazine is about and for all OHs so please remember to keep in contact with us and update your details when necessary.

*Andrew Davies*

**A New Development at HCS**

**Hereford Cathedral School is pleased to announce the expansion of the school Development Office with two new part-time appointments made in June 2010.**



*Claire Morgan-Jones and Chris Townend*

Development Director Claire Morgan-Jones was previously employed as Project Manager at the Woking Schools Confederation, a confederation of thirty-three schools and PRUs in the London Borough of Woking. She brings with her a large portfolio of project and financial management, as well as an impressive business background.

Marketing & Engagement Director Chris Townend was previously employed as Marketing Director at RGS Worcester, as well as Marketing & Events Executive/Brand Guardian with Worcester Warriors. He brings with him a wealth of marketing, branding, events and communications expertise.

Both will be working closely with Helen Pearson, Alumni Officer and OH Club Secretary, to develop the school and enhance its position within the wider community.

Paul Smith, Hereford Cathedral School's Headmaster said:

"Claire and Chris have a wide range of experience and bring a diversity of talent and knowledge. I am very pleased to have secured their services and I am confident they will have an impact on the school and make a significant contribution to ensuring that we become a better endowed school, well placed to meet future challenges and demands."

Claire Morgan-Jones, Development Director added:

"I am delighted to be working at Hereford Cathedral School. The school has such a wealth of tradition and history, which it maintains whilst providing excellent, modern educational opportunities for today's pupils. I will work with all its 'friends' to ensure a secure future with great facilities, whilst also working towards replacing some of what was lost with the end of the Assisted Places scheme."

Chris Townend, Marketing & Engagement Director said:

"I feel privileged to be offered this opportunity to work at HCS. I am very keen to be involved with the school community and play my part in helping the school to develop and get the recognition it deserves to put HCS on the map."

Claire, Chris and Helen are always pleased to meet Old Herefordians and the wider school community, and are happy to show them the school or assist in any way they can. You can also meet them at a range of School and Old Herefordian occasions and events.

## Chief of Welsh F A

**Jonathan Ford, (OH 1978-1985), was headhunted late last year to be the new Chief Executive Officer of the Football Association of Wales (FAW).**

The FAW is the National Governing Body of Association Football in the Principality and the third oldest Football Association in the World. The FAW is a founder member of both FIFA and UEFA and the Association is a key member of the International Football Association Board (together with the other home nations) that decides upon the rules of the game globally.

His remit includes the promotion of the game at all levels, from the grass roots to the National Teams. He has responsibility for encouraging more people to play the sport, more people to watch the sport and using the sport to better the lives of the people of Wales. Jonathan reports not only to the Association's Board of Directors but also to the Welsh Assembly Government on using football to improve both public health through sport participation and community cohesion.

In his role as CEO he also has responsibility for creating the vision, leading and motivating the teams in the delivery of their strategic plan. Key business responsibilities include P&L management, commercial negotiations, stakeholder management, media and brand management as well as the governance of the sport in Wales.

Immediately prior to the FAW, Jonathan was European Sponsorship Director at the Coca-Cola Company with responsibility for developing and implementing sponsorship and business building strategies utilising the company's sports properties. Key programmes included the 2006 FIFA World Cup, the UEFA European Championships 2008 and the Beijing Summer and Torino Winter Olympic Games.

Previously within Coca-Cola, Jonathan was the General Manager on the UEFA European Championships 2004, responsible for delivering all elements of the global business building programme, based in Lisbon, Portugal.

Jonathan was initially headhunted into the GB Division of Coca-Cola, as Head of Sponsorship with responsibilities for all domestic sponsorships including the Football Association, the SFA, the WRU, Wimbledon, the British Open, The Commonwealth Games and many more.

Formerly, Jonathan worked for MTV (Music Television) where his last position was Project Director, responsible for the key international clients and sponsorship programmes, including the MTV Europe Music Awards. Jonathan started his career as a Graduate Trainee in the sales and marketing function for Fosters Brewing.



Jonathan attended HCS, together with his brother and sister, leaving in the mid-eighties to attend Hull University to read Economics and Marketing. With long links to HCS, his father an Old Herefordian and sister Head Girl, the Ford family is a well known Hereford family, managing many hotels and licensed properties including the Booth Hall Hotel, the Orange Tree and the Green Dragon.

Jonathan is married to Alison, a fellow Hull graduate, and has two children, Isabelle (9 years) and Amelia (7 years) who attend Howells Girls School in Cardiff.



## Archaeological find in Canada

**An Old Herefordian, who now lives in Canada, was part of a successful archaeological investigation searching for the wreck of HMS Investigator this summer.**

Archaeologist Edward Eastaugh (OH 1981-1988), was invited by Parks Canada to join the search for the ship which was wrecked in the Arctic Circle more than 160 years ago.

*The Investigator* set sail in 1850 on an unsuccessful mission to find and rescue Sir John Franklin's expedition which had been searching for the North-West Passage. The ship was abandoned by Captain Robert McClure and his 66 crew members after becoming stuck in ice at Mercy Bay, Banks Island. The sailors endured two years of hardship before being rescued by a Royal Naval sledge team in 1853.

Amazingly, marine archaeologists located the well-preserved wreck in the icy waters within half an hour of beginning the search. Ed, however, was searching on land for the graves of three sailors who died from scurvy. Using a magnetometer, which detects small differences in the Earth's magnetic field, he succeeded in locating the gravesites. A cache of food, alcohol, barrels, cooking implements and coal left behind by the crew was also found.

Ed is Bio-archaeology lab manager in the Department of Anthropology, University of Western Ontario. He was accompanied on the expedition by his Canadian wife, Lisa Hodgett, who is also an archaeologist and an assistant professor of anthropology.



## Queen opens school

The Queen officially opened the new Sports' Hall at St John's Beaumont, Windsor, on 22 October 2009.

Her Majesty was escorted on a tour of the school by the Headmaster, Giles Delaney (OH 1985-1991).



A former HCS chorister, Giles studied at Cardiff University and Homerton College. In 1996, he joined St John's Beaumont as temporary Head of Music, Choir Master and Organist. He was appointed Deputy Head in 2001 and became Headmaster in 2006.

## Novel Is Close To Home

The latest novel by Tiffany Murray (OH 1981-1986), *Diamond Star Halo*, has received outstanding reviews:

'If Murray's debut was a psychedelic nod towards Stella Gibbons, in this one she proves herself the glam-rock Dodie Smith.' (Guardian); 'Her lush prose will put a spring in your step and a smile on your face.' (Independent).



Tiffany did not have to look far for a starting-point in her latest novel: her own childhood at the world-famous Rockfield Studios in rural Monmouthshire, where her father was a record producer and her mother the resident cook, has undoubtedly provided inspiration for some hilarious incidents.

*Diamond Star Halo* begins in 1977 and takes place not at Rockfield but a studio called Rock Farm. Intriguingly, the novel is narrated by Halo, whose dad works in the studio and her mum is the cook. Halo is "the background one who did small tasks silently" in this unconventional childhood amongst the antics of rock stars. But the central theme gives the novel a Brontë-esque twist: Halo's attraction to orphaned-at-birth Fred "part seal-pup, part bloody Heathcliff".

Tiffany's first novel, *Happy Accidents* and her second, *Diamond Star Halo* were both short-listed for the Bollinger Everyman Wodehouse Award. Tiffany's writing has appeared in The Times, The Telegraph, The Independent and The Guardian.

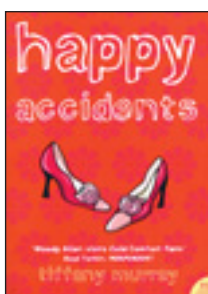
She is Senior Lecturer at The University of Glamorgan.

### *Diamond Star Halo*:

(Portobello Books, 2010  
ISBN: 978-1846272073) £12.99

### *Happy Accidents*:

(London: Harper Perennial, 2005  
ISBN: 978-0007183678) £6.99



## Coroner's Investigator

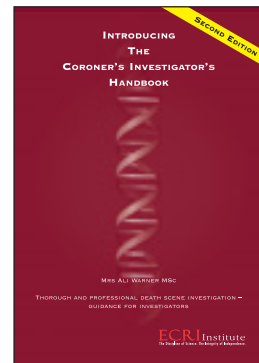
Ali Warner (née MacKinnon), who attended HCS for her A levels between 1974-1976, is a Coroner's Officer and has now published two textbooks in her professional field.

*The Coroner's Investigator's Handbook* is based upon Ali's practical experience of investigating deaths on behalf of the Coroner. It gives comprehensive coverage to all aspects of death scene investigation, identification issues and legislation, and provides a guide to relevant specialists and organisations.

*The Coroner's Investigator's Handbook* is a textbook and perhaps provides a slightly different perspective on the Coroner's world than that portrayed by Matthew Hall in his novels: "My world as a Coroner's Officer is quite different from the one in his book... and my Coroner is thankfully quite different from his!" says Ali.

Catch up with Ali's career on page 19.

*The Coroner's Investigator's Handbook* £39.00



## Kilimanjaro charity climb

Climbing Mount Kilimanjaro's 19,340-ft peak for charity is the goal of Old Herefordian Ali Upham.

Ali is making the trek up Kilimanjaro as we go to press. His target is to raise £4000 for the Motor Neurone Disease Association; two years ago Ali's mother was diagnosed with motor neurone disease.

Ali has been training hard for climbing Africa's highest peak by training in the Lake District. Last year he raised £2,500 for the charity by running the Edinburgh Marathon.

Ali lives in London and is editor of *DVD & Blu-ray Review*.

If you would like to support Ali and make a donation, visit [www.justgiving.com/aliupthemountain](http://www.justgiving.com/aliupthemountain).



## Second M R Hall Novel

Matthew Hall's new novel *The Disappeared*, the second book in his fictional series featuring coroner Jenny Cooper, was published in January this year.

Matthew was previously a criminal barrister and has had a long and highly successful career as a TV screenwriter. Matthew's debut novel, *The Coroner*, was featured in OHN 2009.

### *The Disappeared*:

Hardback (Macmillan, ISBN: 978-0230709850). £12.99  
Paperback (Pan, ISBN-13: 978-0330458375). £6.99

### *The Coroner*:

Paperback (PanMacmillan, ISBN:978-0330458368). £6.99





## European Championships for HCS Coach

Hereford Cathedral School's Director of Sport and former Captain of Herefordshire County Cricket Club, Richard Skyrme OH 1972-1977, was invited to attend the European Cricket Championships, Division 2, in Guernsey this summer.

Richard was in charge of coaching the national side of Norway: "I had never met any of the players, even though I have been involved in European cricket for twelve years," said Richard.

"The first game was against Israel, a close game in which we came out winners by just three runs; a similar finish against France went the other way, a loss by two wickets. We moved grounds and after a rest day, which was spent discussing tactics and field settings, we recorded our second win with a three-wicket win against Gibraltar, but the last two matches proved too much: a loss by four wickets to Germany and a 109 run defeat to the eventual winners Guernsey.

"We finished in fourth place, slightly disappointing, as the side had plenty of potential and talent. Guernsey, however, were worthy winners, undefeated and rarely in trouble. I must thank the Headmaster, for allowing me to miss the last week of term and the PE staff, who covered my lessons and organised 'sports day'."



The Norway National Cricket Team with coach Richard Skyrme (standing far right).

## Hereford Cathedral goes to London

Over 200 guests, including a number of Old Herefordians, gathered in the hall at Westminster Cathedral for the second Westminster Quiz organised by Hereford Cathedral Perpetual Trust.

The evening opened with a champagne reception, sponsored by Tanners Wines ([www.tanners-wines.co.uk](http://www.tanners-wines.co.uk)) and followed through into eight hard-fought rounds of questions, albeit with a break for guests to have their picnics. Bulging hampers disgorged great suppers though one cunning table host simply ordered Chinese for all his guests. Particular thanks to James Probert (OH 1992-1999) for running the bar on the evening.

During the evening Visit Herefordshire held their London launch of the Herefordshire Ambassadors scheme, which draws together people who know and love Herefordshire from a wide variety of occupations and sectors, and who will help raise awareness of everything that the county has to offer. We were delighted to welcome 'Ambassadors' actor John Challis, and his wife Carol, along with Robert Rogers, our former chairman and Clerk Assistant of the House of Commons.

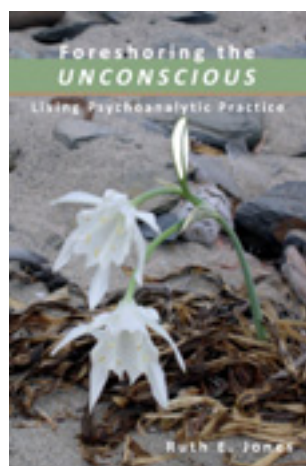
If you would like to attend the 2011 Westminster Quiz or join any of our other London or Herefordshire based events please contact the Trust office at 5 College Cloisters, Hereford HR12NG.

Email: [perpetual.trust@herefordcathedral.org](mailto:perpetual.trust@herefordcathedral.org); 01432 374261 or visit [www.herefordcathedral.org/how-to-help/hereford-cathedral-perpetual-trust](http://www.herefordcathedral.org/how-to-help/hereford-cathedral-perpetual-trust).

## Digital Success

Kate Killick (OH 2000-2007) is a member of the Angry Mango team who were winners of the prestigious Dare to be Digital 2010 award. The team have now been nominated for the Ones to Watch BAFTA 2011.

Kate is the lead artist for the team of students from the University of Wales, Newport, who have designed *Mush* a digital game for the Windows Phone 7. They competed against 80 university teams from across the globe to win Dare to be Digital, an international computer games design competition.



## New Book

'*Foreshoring the Unconscious*' is a book for anyone who wants to know but doesn't dare ask what a psychoanalytic practitioner actually does.

Written by Ruth Jones (OH 1975-1982) "this brilliant book illumines the substantial need we all harbour for some insight into ourselves and for some conception of our place in the family of humankind" says M. Farhi, Novelist and Vice-President of International PEN.

Ruth is a Psychotherapist in private practice in Medway, Kent, and is a member of UKCP, BACP and the Guild of Psychotherapists in London.

*Foreshoring the Unconscious: Living Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy*: Layfield Press (July 2010), ISBN 978-0956635105. It is available from Amazon or through [www.ruthejones.co.uk](http://www.ruthejones.co.uk).



## Mike Moffat, School SSI



Andrew Davies presents Mike with an engraved penknife on behalf of the OH Club

**There will be few Old Herefordians who have not come across Mike in one capacity or another. Those over forty will most likely know him from his work with the OH Club, and younger members from his work in school.**

He was appointed by Howard Tomlinson in 1989 as the School Staff Instructor (SSI) in the CCF and OH Membership Secretary; an appointment which he held for 10 years. As the OH Membership Secretary, it fell to Mike to update and computerise the database of members. This was started in the days before Microsoft became the established computer system, and he had to contend with an inferior and frustratingly unreliable system. With the committee, Mike helped organise the OH Lunches and Balls. He also introduced the OH Service Dinner, which used to take place at Stirling Lines, Hereford. Due to ever increasing operational tours these well-supported gatherings sadly ceased to happen by the late 1990's. Mike got to know many OHs, young and old, and he is now a repository of the informal oral history of the school going back to the 1920s and 1930s.

As the SSI, he supported a succession of COs and the other CCF officers. However, he was far from being solely a back room administrator; although he did handle this aspect of the job with great efficiency, and always with the aim of securing the best for our cadets in terms of opportunities for courses, camps, competitions and adventurous training. For many cadets, particularly those in the Army Section, Mike *was* the face of the Corps. He was always ready to listen to youngsters and he encouraged them to extend themselves and take up new challenges. The door to the CCF office was always open, and Mike would listen patiently and supportively to the concerns of the steady stream of pupils who knew that Mike's advice would be sympathetic and helpful. Youngsters who were going through difficult times at school or at home frequently found that his support and encouragement helped them get back on track.

He is justifiably proud of the large number of former cadets who went on to join the Armed Forces (244 at the last count), and of the high esteem in which HCS CCF is held, as it is rated as one of the best in the UK.

His main interest within and outside the CCF was in developing outdoor pursuits and adventurous training activities. Over the years, Mike organised or assisted on expeditions to many of the wilder places in the UK, including to remote parts of Scotland such as the Cairngorms, Knoydart and Applecross and Torridon, and several longer expeditions to the Alps, Pyrenees, Cyprus and Norway. He drew upon his large network of contacts in HM Forces to obtain the services of men who not only had formidable skills in outdoor activities, but who also rapidly established friendly and mutually respectful relationships with our cadets. All of this added further dimensions to the experiences of the cadets.

It was a chance meeting at one of the OH Service Dinners that led to the setting up of the Ghachok Link and then a series of expeditions to Nepal, which run annually to this day. Lt Col. Edward Marvin OH a former Gurkha officer, eventually introduced Mike to an ex-colleague of his Major Ramprasad Gurung, or Ram as he is known by his friends. Ghachok is Ram's home village, and it became a goal of Mike's to raise money for the village, and especially towards the village school called Shree Sharada. Funds raised so far have altered the face of the school and improved life in the village in several key areas. A significant number of Gap Students from HCS have now visited and stayed in Ghachok to help teach within the school.

It is of little surprise that, seeing the range of Mike's accomplishments at HCS, Warwick school appointed Mike as their Head of Outdoor Education/Outdoor Pursuits co-ordinator. His particular skills and expertise in this area will open up a brand new world for the Warwick School pupils. His departure will leave a gap which will be difficult to fill, and he leaves with the best wishes of all his colleagues for success in this new challenge.

*Chris Spencer*





## Reunions

### Lawyers' Reunion

**Saturday 17th October 2009**

**This was the first time I'd been back since 1986 – those heady days when The Smiths jostled with Chris de Burgh for pole position in the charts and the summer was cruelly long and gorgeous because we were stuck with exam revision!**

Dressed in my suit and standing outside Old Deanery, I had the very odd sensation of my present life colliding with my teenage one.

Of the assembled group of reunionists from the legal world, I knew just two - Jeremy Wilding, my fellow solicitor from Gabbs and Gill Rivers (who was Powell back then when I was Lewis). She wasn't, in fact, a lawyer at all but there as a supportive OH committee member.

A warm welcome, a glass of wine and roast beef for lunch (not to mention cheese and biscuits and a nice pudding!) eased my return to HCS

after twenty-three years (I still can't quite connect this alarming statistic with me!)

Having enjoyed after-dinner speeches by Professor Evelyn Ellis and Head Teacher, Paul Smith, it was time for a guided tour around school. This really brought it home to me why ghosts walk through walls! Buildings had been subtly altered and added to, staircases and doorways moved, and floor levels raised. I was so glad that Gill (my exact contemporary) was there and between us we could piece together where and how it had changed.

I liked the fact that HCS had been enhanced in all sorts of ways (the sports' hall, the smart new labs. and equipment, even clever artificial grass to name just a few) but it was still essentially its recognisable, familiar self. Many thanks to Paul Smith for taking such a lot of time and trouble to show us our old haunts and indulge our nostalgia. Mr Dunn's chemistry

lab. with its battered stools and work surfaces was an unintended highlight; a time capsule of a room soon to be updated.

But, oh that we had the new-format Gilbert Library back in the 80s or the amazing art and design facilities that have appeared (such stunning work on display too). I thought the "Big School" studio theatre with its black-brick walls was pretty cool when I was at the school but it is as nothing compared with what they have now for plays and productions.

Imagine what they might have in another twenty-three years' time! Would I recognise the school at all in an ultra high-tech 2032? (I shouldn't QUITE be at the stage of needing large-print signs and frequent sit-downs to make it round the guided tour – that'll be 2055!) I'll let you know but I hope that fundamentally it'll always remain the HCS of my teenage memories.

*Nansi Webb (née Lewis), OH 1981-1986*





*OH Day 2009*









*London OH Spring Luncheon*



**Old Herefordians in London**

**OHIL Events 2011**

**OHIL Spring Luncheon**

Thursday 24 March, 11am  
Doggetts' Coat & Badge,  
Blackfriars Bridge, SE1  
(Buffet served 1pm.)

**Annual London Dinner**

Thursday 12 May, 6.30pm for 7pm  
The East India Club, St James's, SW1  
(3 course meal + wine, coffee & mints).  
Further Details: OH Club 01432 363566

**Autumn Evening Gathering**

Tuesday 4th October, 6pm onwards  
The Counting House, Cornhill, EC3  
(Meet in the Dining Room for drinks.)

**Autumn Luncheon**

Thursday 3rd November, 11am  
Doggetts' Coat & Badge,  
Blackfriars Bridge, SE1  
(Meet in the Terrace Bar.  
Hot soup & buffet 1pm.)

*All OHs from any HCS era  
are welcome to attend.*

*To reserve a place, please contact  
Peter Fairman-Bourn  
[pfb@oldherefordiansclub.co.uk](mailto:pfb@oldherefordiansclub.co.uk).*



## Reunions

### Leavers of 1990

**The event on 27 February 2010 at Saxty's was really well attended, thirty-four OHs in all with partners. Also a few staff graced us with their presence!**

It was 20 years since we all left and somehow I was persuaded to organise a small gathering. I had a great time! I signed up to Facebook, and very soon they all came out of the woodwork: between us we managed to locate 74 people from the year group. Sadly the date did not suit lots of people, but who knows next time more may be able to come.

Saxty's was a great venue, many thanks to Ed Symonds (OH). We met to watch the Six Nations rugby and then moved on to a champagne reception in Saxty's library. The night went well, much drink consumed and some great memories discussed.

Anyone up for another gathering next year? Just let me know.

Gay Butterworth (Watkins):  
[gaybutterworth@btinternet.com](mailto:gaybutterworth@btinternet.com).

OHs who attended: Phil Seal, Jess Moore, Lizzie Wetherall (Carter), Tim Wetherall, Jez Ponting, Julian Edwards, Toby & Donna Briant, Lyndon Price, Sam & Andy Blackburn, Jez & Rhian Thomas, Sarah Marsh, Jamer Lias, Sean Slater, Simon Built, Emma Jessop, Victoria Tudge & Hubbie, Ruth Davis (Armstrong), Julian Owens, Dom Gool, James Targett, Blaise Lester, Jesse Boucher, James & Deborah Townsend, Emma Davis, Jock & Debbie Smiley, Torie Darke (Havard), Anna Butlin, Gay Butterworth (Watkins).



## OH EVENTS 2011



**OH Annual London Dinner**  
**Thursday 12 May, 6.30pm for 7pm**  
**The East India Club, St James's, SW1**  
**(3 course meal + wine, coffee & mints)**



## 20 YEAR REUNION - CALLING ALL OHs WHO LEFT IN 1991

On the 30th April 2011 we're celebrating the last 20 years of highs and lows, mistakes and achievements, tears and happiness.

We're starting with an afternoon icebreaker on the School Lawns for partners and children, followed by an evening of drinks, food and 80's and 90's grooves at the Green Dragon.



Join us at Facebook "It was 20 Years Ago Today..." for further details.

<http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#!/group.php?gid=399998095131&ref=ts>

Email: hcs1991reunion@hotmail.co.uk



### Hereford Cathedral in Cambridge

#### Do you have Cambridge links?

Hereford Cathedral Perpetual Trust will be holding a reception in the spring or summer term hosted by the Master of one of the Cambridge colleges. The party is to celebrate the number of choral and organ scholars who are currently studying there and who have diocesan links, including a number who are former choristers. If you would like to receive further details about the reception please contact the Perpetual Trust (01432 374261; [perpetual.trust@herefordcathedral.org](mailto:perpetual.trust@herefordcathedral.org)) with your name, address and email address.



### Old School Ties

Last year Mr Michael Donaghy (OH 1958 - 1961) was on holiday in Malta.

Standing outside his hotel, wearing a Queen Mary 2 t-shirt, Michael got talking to an Australian who had sailed on the ship. Eventually it came out the 'Australian' was also an Old Herefordian! His name was Frank Crossman (OH 1948-1954).

### Finding a friend

David Bland is trying to trace an OH friend, Michael Porter a vicar's son, with whom he would very much like to meet up with again.

This photo shows Michael Porter (left), David Bland (centre) and Graham Rees; it was taken in 1949 outside the bell tower of Wellington Church.

Contact: David Bland [dcbland@btinternet.com](mailto:dcbland@btinternet.com).



**OH Review****You couldn't make it up:  
improvised drama from  
Kaloi k'Agathoi**

Review by Nico Vaughan, OH

**"It's like taking the top off an egg," declares the prophet Calchas tearfully, drawing back the sacrificial sword to strike cleanly through the neck of *Honks*, the loveable Beanie Baby goose.**

Calchas, beneath the red light of the theatre, reads the entrails on the altar. "This goose was born with...", a tense hush descends, none of the other actors knowing what he will say this time, "...three skeletons! That means we will be moored in Aulis until Agamemnon sacrifices a member of his family!"

"But which member of his family?" I ask, wily old Odysseus to the core.

"Only another sacrifice will tell," Calchas replies, and asks the audience if anyone else has brought along a small, fluffy animal. A tiger the size of a fortnight old puppy is wilfully handed to the prophet. "Ah, *India*," begins Calchas, examining the tag, "so endangered you still have your label," and proceeds to read a verse of sickening schmaltz inscribed upon it. Soon *India* has joined *Honks* and





*Shweetheart* the orang-utan in deathly bliss, and it is revealed that Agamemnon must sacrifice his favourite daughter, Iphigenia.

This was during the first act of Kaloi k'Agathoi's *Agamemnon: Aeschylus gets the red carpet treatment* for Three Choirs Plus in Hereford, August 2009. Don't remember this bit from Aeschylus? That's because Kaloi k'Agathoi chose to devote the first half of their production to enacting a prequel, during which the back stories of Agamemnon, Menelaus, Odysseus and Achilles were described and the events leading to the revenge of Clytemnestra and Aegisthus revealed for all to see (except the sacrifice of Iphigenia herself, of course, which took place, traditionally, off stage). As our narrator, Siobhan de Souza playing the part of pseudo-Aeschylus, explained, the Greek audience would already have been familiar with the stories when seeing Aeschylus' play. They would have known all about the Beanie Baby executions, and probably all the words to the grimly upbeat songs too, for example Aegisthus to Clytemnestra:

"There's no one who can beat us,  
"No parents left to eat us..."

Not that Act Two of Kaloi k'Agathoi's new production – the Aeschylus part – is much different in tone. It stays true to his plot, but uses the Kaloi k'Agathoi brand of improvised, musical, self-mocking, tragic-comedy to tell it.

It is not a format that burst into life fully formed, but has been tweaked and perfected, and having had its potential realised, is gaining popularity in schools and through public performances. Partly this is because truly improvised drama is unusual, so much so that even when

the show is billed as improvised and explained as such in the programme, subsequent conversation with an audience member frequently follows the lines of:

"So who wrote the script?"

"There wasn't a script."

"But you were speaking."

"We were making it up as we went along."

"But someone must have written it!"

"No, we made it up!"

The benefits of this format have become clearly apparent. Improvisation allows for such flexibility that the performances are as much workshops as plays, with audience participation a regular, and unfailingly amusing, feature. Each performance can be easily tailored, facilitated by the fact that the company has a range of teaching backgrounds, from primary to A level and beyond, not to mention an influx from the bottom of new members, most of them HCS pupils who keep us up to date with the worm's eye view!

Not quite all of it is improvised, however. Original music, songs and lyrics, have of course been composed in advance. We are able to boast not one but two brilliant composers in the Dunachie Bros, Liam and Patrick, and the music, both songs and incidental, give a depth and texture needed to emulate the integral role of chorus and musicians in Ancient Greek drama – and spellbind the modern audiences.

The format seems beautifully simple, but perhaps because of the simplicity, no one would have designed it that way from scratch! It has evolved as required, and an observer of the previous Kaloi k'Agathoi events for the Three Choirs

Festival fringe in Hereford would have seen this evolution in practice: 2003 saw a performance (with rehearsed lines and everything...) of a new, bawdy translation (Alex Outhwaite and Christopher Powell, both OH) of Aristophanes' *Frogs*, and 2006 witnessed the snappily titled workshop *A Herefreudian look at the Aristophallic*. And finally, the 2009 Fringe (now named Three Choirs Plus, and run by the Festival proper), included three improvised play-workshops of *Agamemnon: Aeschylus gets the red carpet treatment* and a *Daedalus and Icarus*.

All this contributes to a new aim of Kaloi k'Agathoi: to engender an interest in the Classics in children from the youngest level, which can be carried through into secondary school and beyond. Perhaps this will not be too difficult. During one performance of *Agamemnon*, when the Chorus asked the title character if he had killed Hector, an indignant three-year-old voice chirped up in the darkness of the audience, "No, Achilles killed Hector!"

*Nico Vaughan is a board member of Kaloi k'Agathoi Community Interest Company. He previously worked as an archaeologist and archaeological illustrator, specialising in finds illustration, and qualified as a primary school teacher in 2009.*

Cast and crew of *Agamemnon gets the Red Carpet Treatment*: OHs - Jason Aftalion, Simon Andrews, Morgan Condon, Ian Corder, Liam Dunachie, Jodie Mallett, Christina Robinson, Nico Vaughan; HCS - Siobhan de Souza, Xander Drury, Pat Dunachie, Rhian Frith, Ursula Harris, Archie Macleod.



## OH Sport

## OLD HEREFORDIANS' RUGBY

**On a damp December day at Wyese, the Old Herefordians played the school 1st XV in the standard end of term fixture.**

A large, vocal crowd enjoyed a competitive game of rugby that was played in an excellent spirit. The OH team was arguably the fittest for many years, but it was the school who started the strongest and spent the first ten minutes camped in the OH '22'. The school went in front with a well-struck penalty from 1st XV coach Ed Falshaw, but it was the OHs who scored the first try, some swift hands putting Bruce Thomas over in the corner. Tom Bates hit the post with the conversion, making the score 5-3. The school worked hard, with Henry Lort outstanding in the loose, but it was the OHs who went over again, just before half-time. An excellent break from James Lewis allowed Tom Bates to cut back inside and score under the posts. Tom also converted his own try. This was a bitter blow for the school who now went into half-time 12-3 down. The OHs maintained and built on

this momentum in the second half and the school was pushed onto the defensive immediately. Inevitably the pressure told: Ed Godsall punching a hole in the school defence to score under the posts and Bates converted, securing a 19-3 lead for the OH. The school worked hard and created pressure for a ten-minute period but failed to put points on the board. The clock was running down when a Charlie Hurt break put Ed Tomkins over in the corner making the final score 24-3.

The school worked extremely hard but on the day the OH team was too strong. Ex-Captain James Lindsay, ex-Wales schoolboy international James Lewis and James Sweetman all had strong games for the OH whilst Henry Lort worked tirelessly in defence for the school.

Thank you to all the Old Herefordians who attended the day and to those who played in the match. Another great OH Day.

*Richard Skyrme (OH), HCS Director of Sport.*



OH Rugby Team 2009



## Belmont Golf Day 2010

**The formula seems to be working. The Golf Day is now in its 7th year.**

This year 15 of us took to the fairways. There were debuts for Roger Morgan (OH 63-70) and Jack Beach (OH 55-63) and they duly brought along a few photos from

HCS days. The Cup was won by Andrew Williams (OH 69-76), Jeremy Clare (OH 58-64) and Jack Beach.

Timing allows a day trip rather than necessitating an overnight stay. Teams are mixed up to even out ability. A small prize for everyone. Low-cost golf and a simple meal at a friendly hostelry. Spring-time to

enjoy the countryside at its most vibrant. Please join us for the next Belmont Golf Day on Thursday 12 May 2011.

The details are emailed (or mailed) to golfing OHs. Contact: Andrew Singer ([abs.singer@btinternet.com](mailto:abs.singer@btinternet.com); Tel: 01656 785628) for further details.



*Back row (left to right): Powell Price (OH 1958-1965), Clive Mugridge (60-65), John Oldman (57-64), Stephen Williams (67-74), John Eede (51-58), Roger Morgan (63-70), Barton Taylor (56-63), Ray Harris (55-61), Howard Tomlinson (HM 87-05), Angus Craig (60-65), Andrew Singer (57-64), David Wright (57-62).*

*Seated: Andrew Williams (69-76), Jeremy Clare (58-64), Jack Beach (55-63).*

## OH Netball

**The OH Netball Team played the school in the New Sports' Hall.**





## Triathlon

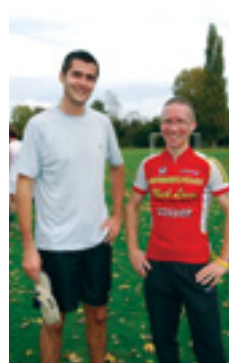
**On Sunday 5 September, a triathlon competition was held at Wye Leisure, Fownhope, and a team competed on behalf of the Old Herefordians.**

Over 150 individuals competed in addition to the team competition and sadly, for the first time in the three-year history of the event, the weather was not bright and sunny – in fact it was very wet and miserable. However, Juliette Austen Chandler (400 metres swim in 8 minutes 10 seconds), John Webb (14.5 miles cycle in 35 mins 25 secs) and Andrew Davies (3.9 miles run in 24 mins 37secs) finished in a highly creditable 1 hour, 8 mins and 12 secs, just 72 seconds behind the winners. They have vowed to do better next year!!!



## Hull Cup

**Nostalgic OH President Andy Davies and OH Committee treasurer Jon Webb ran the Hull Cup race, September 2009.**



## Belmont Golf Day

**Thursday 12 May 2011**

**Coffee 11am  
Round of Golf  
Supper  
Cost £45**



**Contact Andrew Singer (OH 57-64)  
Tel: 01656 785628 abs.singer@btinternet.com**



## OH REGATTA 2011

**Sunday 12 June Hereford Rowing Club**

**Pre OH Regatta Lunch for rowers and spectators  
School Dining Hall - 11.45am**

**To book your place, please contact  
Helen Pearson: 01432 363 566 development@hcjs.org**





**OH Update****SPOTLIGHT ON...****Katy Skerrett** OH 1987-1984

**Katy was the Guest of Honour at the school Speech Day, Saturday 17 July 2010.**

After leaving HCS, Katy studied at Oxford University where she gained a First Class Honours in Geography. She was awarded the Queen Mother Fox Scholarship by the Honourable Society of the Middle Temple, which sponsored her law conversion at City University London, and her Bar Vocational training at the Inns of Court School of Law.

Katy was called to the Bar in 1999; she practices civil law and specialises in local authority, housing and planning. She was later appointed as an Assistant Coroner and became a postgraduate lecturer in civil litigation. In 2007, Katy was appointed as a Judge and sits part-time in the Midland and South-Western circuits.

Katy lives in Hereford with her husband and three children, two of whom attend Hereford Cathedral Junior School.

**OH Careers****Jonathan Arnold** OH 1980-88

**If anyone had been able to tell me, in 1988, what I would be doing in 2010 and the manner of the intervening years, I could hardly have believed them.**

Currently Chaplain and Senior Research Fellow at Worcester College, Oxford I combine life as a pastoral priest and scholar after fifteen years as a professional singer. It is perhaps a complex story with choices that have not always been easy or straightforward, but one that has its roots in Hereford Cathedral and the School, where my passions in life were nurtured.

But what has happened to the twenty (plus!) years since I left, armed with A Levels that would form the basis of my life: Theology, Music, English and Art? A year in the cathedral choir combined with work, travel and occasional productions with The Cooked Breakfast Theatre Company (some may remember Pinter's *The Birthday Party* and Beckett's *Waiting for Godot* with Colin Gray, Nick Asbury and friends) led me on to Oxford to study theology at St. Peter's College. Here I was fortunate to

study with some of the greatest minds in theology, like Rowan Williams, Dennis Nineham and John Fenton. In Oxford, too, my love of singing was developed in the choir of Magdalen College Chapel and, at the end of my three years, I knew I wanted to pursue singing as a career, having already begun to perform and record professionally. However, unable to take up a graduate place at King's College, Cambridge (due to lack of funds), where I had been offered a place in the choir, I took a less obvious choice and instinctively moved to the East End of London.

It was here in Dalston, Hackney, whilst applying to music colleges, that I made a living by tutoring in Maths and English to school children, giving private music lessons and working in a bookshop, but all the time learning about how to sing and what the London music scene had to offer that Oxbridge did not.

After a year of post-graduate vocal training at the Royal Academy of Music, I fulfilled a lifetime's ambition and gained a place in St. Paul's Cathedral Choir and regular work with several vocal ensembles with international reputations, such as the *Tallis Scholars* and *Gabrielli Consort*, but not least *The Sixteen*, with whom I had a fifteen-year association, won a Brit award and filmed the BBC series *Sacred Music* presented by Simon Russell-Beale. My career took me from Japan to Brazil, from Iceland to Russia and, of course, to the Three Choirs Festival in Hereford. The most memorable moments were those which touched my own spirituality, such as the Bach Passions, and the profoundly moving televised performance of Bach's *B Minor Mass* from the Royal Albert Hall, performed on the 250th anniversary of the composer's death,



as well as singing Mozart's *Mass in C Minor* in the Church of Santiago di Compostela in Spain to pilgrims and locals alike. The fulfilment I found by singing on the concert platform, operatic stage and recording studio was more than matched by offering music in the regular round of worship at St. Paul's and, with my musical career established, I began to realise that there were other vocations I needed to explore: theology and the Church.

It was during the mid-nineties that I met Emma in the Dean's Aisle of St. Paul's (there's another story!) and we were married in 1997. After moving to Cuddesdon to begin Emma's training for ordination to the priesthood my own theological interests were once again rekindled and I decided to embark upon a doctorate (on late-medieval Church history) at King's College, London – a university that I could easily reach from St. Paul's and so combine study with music and worship, a satisfying blend as I had discovered in Hereford. I loved the discipline and creativity of research and writing, albeit often on planes and in hotel rooms, and was delighted to win some university awards and a Fellowship of the Institute of Historical Research. Whilst Emma continued her parish ministry in London, and even before the completion of my doctorate, I decided to seek selection for ordination, and so the strands of art and religion threaded themselves together once again into a rich tapestry.

Training for the priesthood at Cuddesdon and spending three years as a curate back in Oxfordshire, now with two small children, gave the gritty formation I needed to become, I hope, a useful minister. Now, at Worcester College, my enthusiasm for music,

theology, worship and pastoral care are combined in one place. I continue to write books and articles on the Renaissance and Early Modern Europe and enjoy using my contacts to arrange broadcasts and concerts for the college choirs, as well as conducting choirs myself. There is something very exciting and privileged about being able to help and guide others in their formative years to discover themselves and find their passions. It's also refreshing to listen to a choir sing for me for a change! I cannot imagine what the next twenty years may bring, except I know that Emma and I will adore watching our children grow, but if life is as interesting, surprising and enjoyable as the last two decades, I know I shall be fulfilled and happy.

Rev'd Dr. Jonathan Arnold (HCS 1981-1988) is Chaplain and Senior Research Fellow at Worcester College, Oxford. A Fellow of the Royal Historical Society, he is author of *Dean John Colet of St. Paul's: Humanism and Reform in Early Tudor England* (Tauris, London, 2007). His next book, *The Great Humanists: Europe of the Eve of the Reformation* (Tauris, London), will be published in early 2011. He appears in series one of the BBC television's *Sacred Music*, now available on DVD, and you can hear him sing the bass role in Bach's *Christmas Oratorio* in St. Mary's Priory Church, Monmouth on December 11th, 2010. Jonathan will also be leading a broadcast of Morning Worship on BBC Radio 4 on February 13th 2011 at 8.10 a.m. live from Worcester College Chapel. He lives in Garsington, Oxfordshire, with his wife Emma Pennington, a parish priest, and their two children, Katherine and Thomas.

## Ali Warner (née MacKinnon)



**I joined HCS sixth form in 1974; it was only the second year that girls had been admitted at sixth form level.**

I gained three good A level grades – quite a shock for anyone who had known me before and knew that studying and I were not really good friends. However it was HCS that turned that around and I particularly loved Latin A level! I still use Latin almost every day one way and another – so my thanks to Mr Rhodes.

Following HCS I trained as a nurse in Birmingham. I did not enjoy nursing – apart from the intensive care – and so decided to go to University. Having enjoyed languages, although I didn't want to build on my A level French, I decided to study linguistics at Essex University and gained a BA Hons (2:1) in Psycholinguistics.

Following my degree, I worked as a researcher for the Common Market for a year, based at Essex Uni, looking at the development of an automated language translation system. In 1985 I took an MSc in Cognitive Science, concentrating on predicate calculus logic. However, I had now decided not to work with computers for ever more and needing more people contact I joined Essex Police as a constable. I became a Police Inspector five years later and I married a policeman.



In 1998 we moved to East Sussex, and I became a Coroner's Officer – combining all my past job experience. I can truly say that without the good grounding of two years at HCS, none of that would have happened as I would not have found the enjoyment of study that came then, as well as the ability to realise my strengths and work with them. The other subject I took at A level was Divinity – another topic I now draw on daily. It is quite amazing that I can look back at my life and see how all the different strands have interwoven to bring me to where I am now.

When I began as a Coroner's Officer there was no guidance, no colleagues and no one to advise how to do my job well. So I recorded notes, developed good practice and I had my first textbook published in 2005 and the most recent one in 2009. There is no other textbook in this country advising how to investigate deaths on the Coroner's behalf in England and Wales.

My world as a Coroner's Officer provides a slightly different perspective from the one in Matthew Hall's novel and my coroner is thankfully quite different from his! Real life can be more interesting than his portrayal in some ways, but is certainly as dramatic, with every day different, interesting and humbling.

I look back on my time at HCS with many good memories – not least because my life turned around when I was in Hereford, on many fronts. Not only educationally but spiritually, musically and socially. I often wonder how my colleagues have got on and where they are now – especially Janine Clark and Leonora Okarma to name but two.

Old friends are welcome to contact Ali by e-mail: [ali@aliwarner.demon.co.uk](mailto:ali@aliwarner.demon.co.uk).

## Robina (Beanie) Lloyd

OH 1982-89



### **As a second year moving into the 3rd form at HCS, I was less than enthusiastic about the prospect of joining the Army section of the CCF.**

The idea of dressing up in khaki and boots to spend Tuesday afternoons "square bashing" was less than appealing. Instead I joined the Naval Section, where I thought that there might be an opportunity to sail. Although sailing was not abundant, I recall knot tying and first aid which has come in handy for sailing later in life. There were a few notable highlights – some camping trips, visits to naval bases, including being on the bridge of a Nuclear Submarine – and, what seemed like, endless rehearsals at Wyese for the Biennial inspections.

A few years later at Exeter Uni Fresher's Fair I met up with Annie Rees (now teaching at HCS Prep) who was being persuaded by another student to join the Officer Training Corps (OTC). When he discovered that I had some CCF experience, he said "you must join, it is just like CCF but you get paid". I reflected on the enormous fun that I had had in the Naval Section with Rachel Dobson, Catherine Quinlan and Leicha Rocke. I could not believe that OTC could match the fun that we had had at CCF, but I joined. I had two fantastic years with Exeter University OTC on Army exercise, adventurous training and partying in a wide variety of locations ranging from

Dartmoor to Aviemore and Norway to Austria. I also made life long friends and supplemented my student loans.

Despite the fun, thoughts of "joining up" were far from my mind. I was doing a Business Studies degree with aspirations of being a Captain of Industry. However, a placement year with Marks and Spencer made me realise that retail was not the job for me and I began to reconsider my plans.

On return to university for my final year, the OTC sent me to the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst to do a Territorial Army Commission. Initially I was terrified but I returned feeling a mixture of exhaustion and exhilaration and with a hunger for more. The decision was made and I returned to Sandhurst in April 1995 for a year of officer training and was commissioned into the Royal Signals as the top female of the intake.

The Army has offered me 15 years of challenge and variety: from an immediate deployment to Bosnia on commissioning, to working as an assistant for a senior General, and commanding soldiers in a Troop and a Squadron. I have served in locations as diverse as Germany, Australia, York and London. There has also been time for a bit of skiing and sailing.

One of the highlights was being selected to return to Sandhurst as an Instructor where I later became Adjutant of Old College. This role is normally the preserve of the Infantry and included commanding TA and Short-Course Commissioning Parades on a horse. Anyone who remembers me will recall I do not ride. I soon learnt!

I met my husband, David, at the end of my first tour and over the past three years we have had two gorgeous girls. Being a mummy has brought a whole new host of challenges, not least of which is maintaining a full-time job with the potential to deploy. I have decided to hang up my boots and give more time to my family. I am leaving



the Army, moving to Cheltenham and I am going to train as a Speech and Drama teacher.

Never for a moment on the School Yard parade ground, when saluting the ensign being raised and lowered, did I imagine that I would do service in Her Majesty's Armed Forces. Nor would I have believed anyone if they had told me how much fun and how rewarding it would be.

### Graham Price OH 1989-96



**When I said 'goodbye' to Castle Street in 1996 I was heading in the direction of a fairly niche career teaching Latin and Greek, hoping to teach interested and brilliant adolescents.**

I'm still not sure how I was seduced away from this worthy path by the Internet – but you could say it's a sideways step from the translation of poetry and prose to the translation of business objectives into engaging user experiences. Or more simply: it's a sidestep from ancient languages to modern.

These days I'm building websites – a decade ago they were often limited online presences, but increasingly (as the Internet has sneaked into our lives and become indispensable) they are sites for travel organisations, charities,

games, schools, politicians, magazines. Some of the most fun and innovative stuff has been TV-related, such as Big Brother, Teachers' TV and work on BBC Two which led to the iPlayer. I've swapped Tacitus for Twitter, Aristophanes for Apple, and the Flavii for Flash, Facebook, and Firefox. Ten years of Classics left its stamp on me however – I'm prone to wild and indulgent excesses of Latinate sentence structure, with rambling Greek-style subordinate clauses (you're lucky they've been edited out of this).

Speaking of Facebook, it's hard not to be in regular touch with faces from the past since we all became junkies hooked on it. A cursory glance down my friends list reveals about 60 OHs. Even living in Sydney, I still manage to cross paths with a few every year: Nikki Reid and Kate Balnaves in London this year and Dave Sheen over here. For all the others, separated by geography, I love that Facebook keeps me up to date (although I've had it with Farmville invitations).

So many of the friends I've made since school say they hated or (at best) endured their own experiences of school, so I must have been remarkably lucky to have enjoyed my time so much. Or maybe I'm just odd. Any number of clear pictures spring to mind: tea, biscuits, gossip, and Thucydides with Frances O'Donoghue and Michael Tomlinson (Ancient Greek); Hugo Hutchison and Tim Newman battling with plastic swords over plastic crowns (Mediaeval History); mangled accents straying from Wales to Mumbai in a farcical reading of *Under Milk Wood* (English)... And of course many hours of toast and cards with Mike, Fran, James, Mark, and Kelly in our Sixth form study (we did do some work, honest - we have A Levels to prove it!).

The teachers on that seven-year mission who nudged me in the right direction were the wry triumvirate of

the Classics Dept: Rawlinson, Rhodes, & De Souza; the heavy guns of English Lit: Messrs Crowhurst & Gray; and the awesome History duo whose methods were as wildly different as they were effective: Mr James & Dr Tomlinson.

But to bring things back to now... I never had any burning desire to move to Australia when I first came; I just thought it might be good to finally do some travelling since I'd skipped taking a gap year before my Classics degree. After three months of circumnavigating the continent and nine months of settling into Sydney in 2003, returning to the UK when my visa expired was no longer a very enticing proposition. I managed to return here in 2006 and I'm now not far off becoming an Australian, although thankfully the citizenship test doesn't require me to be fully versed in effective barbecuing or applying sunscreen in a way that doesn't result in strangely shaped patches of sunburn.

### David B Roberts

**David attended HCS in the 1950s and was Head of School House and Head of School.**

On page 35 he takes issue with his contemporary Major Sir Michael Parker. Below he reflects on school days and his career:

Jimmy [Rowlands] would not claim to be the greatest Biologist, but he was an inspirational teacher who instilled in his pupils, if they were receptive, a love of the subject. I will cite one personal example of this: in my first year of 6th form Biology I became interested in transmission genetics. In those days genetics was not as well known as it is today, and Jimmy had some difficulty with it. This he admitted then, and to me later, but rather than hide the fact –



Genetics was then an obscure part of Biology which he could easily have skipped – he encouraged me to pursue the subject, buying in *Drosophila* for simple experiments, and allowing me to teach the subject to the following year.

I spent two pointless years in the army, in the ranks, which were brutal. I became an acting corporal, an Ammunition Examiner X class, and learnt to skive. [...] I went up to Cambridge in 1958, where I took a BA and PhD in Genetics, followed by a post-doctoral stint at Johns Hopkins University, four years as a lecturer at Leeds University and, in 1970, two appointments as the first lecturer in Genetics at Oxford University, and Fellow and Tutor in Biology at Magdalen College. I remained at Oxford until my retirement at the end of 2004. While at Oxford I pursued research on *Drosophila*, the fruit fly Jimmy Rowlands had allowed me to buy in Hereford, and taught Genetics to all years of Biology and Biochemistry students. I was at various times Tutor for Graduates, Tutor for Admissions and Senior Tutor at Magdalen, and I was Vice-President of the College for my last two years. As Vice-President I was responsible for the College paintings and silver which renewed my interest in art (stimulated by Mr Lancaster), and which led me to study for an MA in Art History with the Open University which I obtained last year.

When I was Vice-President of Magdalen, Anthony Nuttall (New College) – who was a year ahead of me at Hereford and went to Oxford – was a Professor of English, and John Gittins (Keble) was a Professor in Statistics.

*David B Roberts, MA, PhD (Cantab); Fil.dr. (honoris causa) (Umeå), MA (Art History, OU), Emeritus Fellow Magdalen College Oxford.*

## James (Mac) McLuskie

OH Deanery 1954-60



**Before I left school, I was determined to be a pilot in the RAF, thus following in my father's footsteps.**

However, having failed the pilot medical because of eyesight and then failing the RAF engineer medical, I left school not knowing what to do.

In the autumn of 1960, I started teaching in private prep. schools for one year and during this time saw a newspaper advertisement for mining engineers in South Africa. Hankering after warmer climes, I applied and, after four years at Nottingham University reading engineering, I graduated with a First in mining. Now married, I eventually found myself en route to the new Republic of South Africa to work for the Anglo American Corporation of South Africa.

Almost 40 years later, I retired from the Anglo-De Beers companies after a (mostly!) enjoyable, long and adventurous career which took me to places such as Angola, Botswana, Namibia, The Congo and Tanzania, and also to Canada and Russia whilst still maintaining a home base in South Africa. I became involved in deep-level gold, open-pit diamonds as well as strip-mining coal and coastal mining of diamonds.

Such a lifestyle led to my accumulating two British passports (one "clean" without SA stamps, thereby avoiding being caught up in the political climate surrounding Apartheid) and eventually a third passport with full RSA citizenship.

I now live in Johannesburg with my wife Joan and we have six lovely grandchildren not too far away.

What did the Cathedral School do for me? Well, I will always be grateful to HCS for an education that ultimately enabled me to live a full and exciting life as an adult: Housemaster Mr. J A M Baldwin's English grammar, plus the Latin I inadvertently learned, were invaluable to me in SA when writing reports and learning decent Portuguese and poor French; reasonable academic results, particularly in science subjects and mathematics; a thorough enjoyment of sport. I played for the 1st XV for two seasons and we won a lot of our matches under coach Bernie Edwards, both home and away. Against all odds, we even beat the Old Boys 10-5 in my final year! Fearing that I might not see the ball whilst facing a fast bowler at the crease, I abandoned cricket in the summer months in favour of rowing, eventually gaining full colours as No.6 for the 1st VIII.

One particular highlight of the 1959 season on the Wye was when the original HCS 1st IV crew, which won at Marlow Regatta in 1949, returned as OHs to challenge the School to a race to mark their tenth anniversary victory. I was rowing at No.2 this time and we were comfortably 'demolished' by 4 lengths in favour of a much older and stronger crew. They had obviously lost nothing of their former style and skill!

As a child of an RAF family, Old Deanery was also for me a house in which I had lived the longest until I moved to our current house only nine years ago! During those austere post-war years, when things were still on ration, the food was awful and there was a lot of bullying in the early days. Nevertheless, it was home to me.

Having finally retired in 2002, I am now busy on community work, youth development, bird watching and travelling. If any OH is going to visit Jo'burg, come look me up. Also in the vicinity are three other OHs from my era, Les Floyd, Michael Hankinson and Michael Read.



**Martin Nicholson***former Head of Mathematics at HCS*

**Before coming to Hereford, I was teaching as Head of Maths at a Lake District Grammar School dating back to the 16th century.**

I was very happy there but when it became evident that it was going to be merged into a Comprehensive School, I decided that it was time to move on. At that time, a famous Public School was advertising for a Maths Master and only Oxford and Cambridge Graduates need apply. How very politically incorrect this would be nowadays.

I was appointed Head of Mathematics at the Cathedral School from September 1967 together with Dick Heald, with whom I had a marvellous partnership. In those days, there were 350 boys in the School, about a third of whom were boarding. Barbara Cooper was the part-time Secretary and seemed to manage very well. The Masters' Common Room was a bit like a Gentlemen's Club. You were left alone with regard to teaching as long as your results were acceptable and you were expected to be a Schoolmaster rather than a teacher. We had a Head Master, James Peebles, rather than a Headmaster. We had occasional Masters' Meetings at break on Friday mornings. Departmental meetings were held on a one-to-one basis over a break-time coffee.

In 1977, one of the major turning points in my life occurred when Barry Sutton, the then Headmaster enquired of me if I fancied a year on exchange at the Cathedral School in Sydney. So it was that I began what was, arguably, the happiest year of my life at that time, and realising that there was more to life than living a hitherto boring life, on reflection, in England. In 1990, I was very fortunate to have the chance of a further one-year exchange to another leading school in Sydney. Before I left for this exchange, one of my class monitors said that, whilst I was in Sydney, she would get me a good job in Zimbabwe!

On my return to Hereford, I was quite surprised to find that she was as good as her word and I was offered the post of Head of Maths at the leading girls' school and oldest school in the country at the Dominican Convent Girls' High School in Harare.

At that time, in England, everything was becoming increasingly bureaucratic with time-wasting Project Work, Appraisals, Profiling, endless Meetings with Minutes. "O" Levels, too, had been done away with.

So I was in seventh heaven in Harare where there were still proper "O" and "A" Levels and once-a-term Meetings. I arrived just in time to experience the school's centenary. I started a Chess Club and helped with the transport of the Drum Majorettes. I was also appointed to be Father Christmas at the Convent Sisters' Christmas party. This involved each Sister sitting on my knee whilst I handed them a present. They told me that they weren't allowed to sit on men's knees but that Father Christmas was different and OK!

After two very happy years there, I was requested by 'phone, by the Anglican Bishop in the Solomon Islands, if I would go and help out at a new Anglican school on a fairly remote island. This was too good an opportunity to miss so off I went, for 1994, to St. Stephen's High School where there was only electricity by generator from 6pm to

10pm and, then, only when the school remembered to replenish the fuel. There was only a field-telephone in case of emergency.

Transport was by canoe and the students arrived by island boats for several weeks into each term and began to leave again soon after the second half of term began. My first lesson was about "time" and the students didn't understand me because there were no clocks or watches. I asked them how many hours they spent in bed from 10pm until 6am and they couldn't give me the answer.

There were no shops so I grew my own vegetables and fruit and learnt how to cook fish and vegetables wrapped in banana leaves which were then placed in a hole in the ground surrounded by hot stones and then covered up for a few hours. I bought a second-hand bicycle in Australia before going to my island and this was the only one there.

The classrooms had grass roofs and so, when it rained (frequently sometimes for days) lessons were cancelled. The rooms were on wooden stilts and I remember one time getting quite excited with my Mathematics teaching and falling out of the classroom onto the grass below much to the students' amusement.

I had several visitors from overseas and they were picked up at the local airport at Kira-Kira by a tractor and car before embarking in the Bishop's canoe to come and see me. They came stocked up with bread, bacon, beer-making kits and lots of other goodies which I was missing so much.

After one year, I returned to Zimbabwe just before my Visa there expired and stayed for another two years, this time teaching at Eaglesvale High School, also in Harare. At my interview, I was asked if I could umpire cricket. I replied that I had helped in umpiring the Choristers' cricket matches at Hereford Cathedral School whereupon I was accepted to teach



Mathematics and, to my consternation, to umpire the School Second Eleven. I should here explain that sport in the ex-colonies is taken very seriously indeed. After my protestations that I should be hopeless at this job, I was given the far more amenable job of umpiring and "taking" girls' volleyball.

I had, by then, decided that I would end my days in Zimbabwe but, then, internal politics became difficult so I decided to move on.

In 1997, I secured a Post teaching English as a Foreign Language at Korea University in Seoul. Korea is not an easy country in which to live. The climate is mostly extremely cold or hot. Spring and Autumn seemed to be very short.

During my year there, I was invited to be Co-Director of the Greek Community School in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. This is an International School for all ages from 5 to 18 years old and during my time there, the number of nationalities amongst the students increased to 39. I introduced a school uniform in blue and white (the colour of the Greek Flag), a computer laboratory and Cambridge Overseas Ordinary and Advanced Levels. I am happy that all of these have continued to blossom since.

After two more years, I decided to move again, this time to Beijing where I taught Mathematics at Beijing Huijia School, a private school with many senior Government students and guarded by soldiers.

When I finally left Beijing in mid-Winter wearing seven layers of clothing, it was minus 25 degrees Celsius and I flew to Bangkok where it was plus 35!! There I was met by Ian Jacobs, ex-HCS Physics Master and I taught EFL in Hat Yai and Songkhla before securing a Maths position in Chiang Mai. It was there that I met Pit, my wife-to-be. However, by then, I had been invited and had accepted to be Head of Maths and English at the Australian International School in Kuala Lumpur. There was a misunderstanding over the English. I thought I would be in charge of

English as a Foreign Language but, instead, rudely discovered, also to the school's consternation, that it was straight English. I found myself teaching the mysteries of "Macbeth" plus many other facets which I only managed by staying one page ahead of the students. Fortunately, an experienced replacement was found after one term and I was then able to concentrate on the joys of Calculus and Matrices instead!!

Pit came to stay for two separate months during my year in KL and I was able to fly up to Chiang Mai for weekends which helped to cement our relationship.

And so it was, that I "retired" at the end of 2002 and Pit and I decided to settle, by the sea, in Songkhla. I firmly believe that Songkhla is the best place in Thailand in which to live. Now we are happily married with a wonderful one-year-old daughter. Phatthira Clara (Patti for short) and we have just moved into our new house overlooking the water on a beautiful Thai Island. We had six weddings and one divorce but that's another story!

Needless to say, I have not been allowed to retire and now teach Mathematics at a local Thai High school on Tuesdays and Thursdays so I'm kept busy.

We have a continual flow of visitors and all OHs will be made most welcome here. They would experience Real Thailand instead of those tourist havens of Pattaya, Phuket and Koh Samui. My e-mail address is [nicholsonmartin@yahoo.com](mailto:nicholsonmartin@yahoo.com) and I'm also on Facebook.



Martin's car 'Admiral's Barge' in Castle Street

## Update

### Roger William Davies

OH 1957-63

#### Roger was member of School House and a chorister 1957-1961.

After graduating in Maths from University College London and marrying Jane, a fellow graduate, he qualified as an actuary in Norwich. During his career he held a number of actuarial jobs in London and the South East, including General Manager, Europe for The Wyatt Company and Chief Actuary at Guardian Royal Exchange Group.

Now retired, he spends time between homes in Worthing and Fuerteventura. Roger acts as a non-executive director for the insurance company of the Saga Group.

### Jim Godwin

OH 1957-65

#### "In 2007 I retired as a Patent Attorney after 38 years with Marks & Clerk."

As I approached retirement I said I wanted to do more singing, and my wife said she wanted to do more travelling. Happily, I have been able to combine both activities. I am a member of four choirs and all of them tour abroad occasionally.

The New London Chamber Choir specialises in contemporary music. With them I have travelled to Geneva and Porto. In 2010 we premiered a new composition for choir based on our DNA – at the Diamond Synchrotron, Harwell. We also premiered a new choral composition in Macedonia and gave the first performance in that country of Fauré's *Requiem*.

The Bach Choir is a large London choir that performs regularly at the Royal Festival Hall. We have performed Haydn's *Creation* in the beautifully reconstructed Frauenkirche in Dresden. But the big foreign tour came in 2008, when we went to Australia.



The choir took part in two concerts in Sydney, one being a concert performance of Vaughan Williams's opera *Pilgrim's Progress* in the Opera House Concert Hall. We joined with the Opera Chorus, who entertained us to a barbecue – in the scenery loading bay attached to the rehearsal studios! Inevitably, the smoke set off an alarm in neighbouring offices, which had to be evacuated while the fire brigade was called out – but our party carried on regardless. We also performed the Verdi Requiem three nights in a row in the main Melbourne concert hall.

I am currently chairman of Guildford Chamber Choir: the retiring chairman had to twist my arm. In 2007 we had a short tour of Tuscany, with lots of eating, drinking, and sightseeing – singing in churches in Florence, San Gimignano, and Montecatini. In the summer of 2009 the Guildford Camerata had a week on the Greek island of Evia, giving two concerts at the invitation of a local pianist, who provided us with accommodation. Both concerts took place out of doors. This really was a holiday with a bit of singing attached! We have already been invited back, and one member of the audience wants us to sing in Cyprus.

So, I must keep my vocal cords in trim – and my passport up to date."

### **John Hardy OH 1970-75**

**Composer John Hardy has been appointed Head of Contemporary Music, Composition and Creative Music Technology at the Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama.**

John's latest CD, *Blue letters from Tanganyika*, was featured in OHN 2009.

### **Matthew Hyland OH 1983-87**

**Matthew joined HCS in the third year.**

He spent a gap year in Australia, went to Newcastle-upon-Tyne University, then Law school, took off another gap

year in France and then started work. For the last 18 years he has practised as a corporate lawyer in Birmingham. He met his wife, Lise at work. She has since left the law and re-trained as a teacher. They have three children Jacob 9, Thomas 7 and Samuel 5.

### **Duncan (S J D) Pierce**

**OH 1955-62**

**Duncan Pierce has returned to acting 47 years after his last stage appearance at HCS!**

He played Damon Wildeve in a production of Hardy's *Return of the Native* at the Woolstore Theatre, Wiltshire, a theatre owned by its members. He was 'spotted' by the play's producer at a drinks party; he has since appeared in several other productions at the theatre.

Since leaving HCS he has played cricket every summer and in 2009 was selected for Wiltshire in the Over-60's County Championship, where he played against Somerset and Surrey. His local club also selected him to attend an umpiring course.

Duncan is also an amateur genealogist and was surprised recently to discover something that he didn't know during his seven years of boarding at HCS – that he has Herefordshire roots. As a result of his research he was able to track down and visit a monument to his ancestors, the Unetts, at Castle Frome Church.

### **Clive Rees**

**OH 1951-59**

**"Playing for my house at rugby (and cricket) was the height of my sporting achievement at school.**

On leaving school I continued to play rugby at the lowest level, turning out for Llandaff Technical College and Dinas Powys in Wales, and Battersea Ironsides when I moved to London. In 1969 I decided to take up refereeing; this took me around the country and I didn't stop until dodgy knees and old

age caught up with me in 2008. I also did five years on the RFU National League touch-judge panel.

I also continued my cricketing interest after leaving school. I played for various club teams in South Wales and London, and became a member of a village club when I moved to the West Country. I played regularly until I was in my early fifties, and then took up umpiring; I am member of the West of England Premier League panel and I manage about 45 matches each season.

I am retired from my career as a clinical manager in the NHS and divide the winter months between Somerset and Spain. I am a frequent visitor to Wales as I go to most of the home matches in Cardiff."

## **Congratulations**

### **John Challenger OH 1957-63**

John has been made a Scholar of St John's College, Cambridge, for 2010-2011 after being placed in the First Class in his university exams.

### **Jack Cox**

Jack has been awarded an Exhibition at Balliol College, Oxford, following successful results in his first year exams.

### **James Lindsay OH 2000-07**

James has been accepted with the Royal Marines and started his officer training on 30 August 2010.

### **Shay-Anne Preece OH 2000-07**

Shay-Anne has been awarded the Royal Society of Medicine History of Medicine Norah Schuster Prize. She received the award and presented her essay to the Royal Society in February 2010.

### **William Spencer OH 2008**

William has been awarded the Ash Senior Scholarship for 2010-2011 by Emmanuel College, Cambridge, after achieving a First Class result in his Engineering examinations.

Congratulations to **Alexander Rees, Olivia Smith** and **James Sweetman** on gaining their Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award.



## Weddings

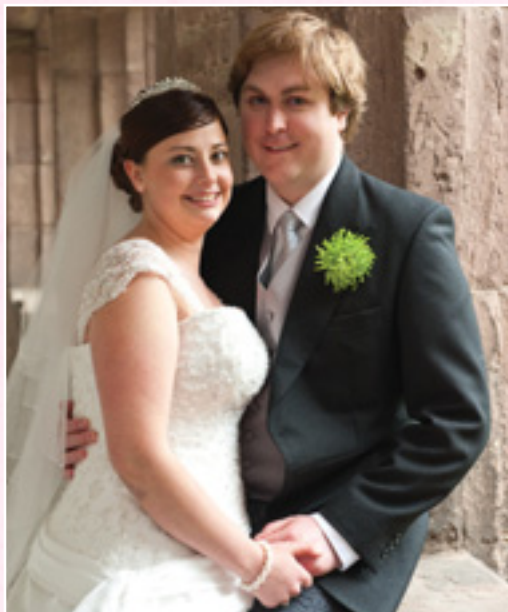


Photo: Cameron Swan - www.cameronswan.com

### **Rebecca Northmore** OH 1996-2003 and **Chris Morgan** OH 1996-2003

*The wedding of OH Committee Member Chris Morgan (OH 1996-2003) and Rebecca Northmore (OH 1996-2003) took place in the Lady Chapel at Hereford Cathedral on Saturday 1 May 2010, with the reception following at The Priory, Stretton Sugwas.*

Old Herefordian guests included Colin Manning, (OH 1938-1944); Anthony Weston (OH); Simon Andrews (OH 1996-2003); Ed Painter (OH 1996-2003); Emma Brisbane (OH 2002-2004); Ben Pattison (OH 1996-2003); Did Pattison née Hunting (OH 1997-2004); Iain Mackay (OH 1996-2003); John Crichton (OH 1998-2003); Bernie MacGregor (OH 1998-2003); Elizabeth Dollins (OH 2001-2003).

The photographers were Cameron Swan, who are husband and wife team Old Herefordian Oliver and Ruth Cameron-Swan. Chris and Rebecca went on honeymoon to Paris and the Île de France. They both now live and work in Herefordshire.

### **Harriet Lowe** OH 1993-2000 and **Kranthi Tadikonda**

**OH Harriet Lowe enjoyed a wedding/weddings with a difference.**

Harriet, who is a Flight Lieutenant in the RAF, married Kranthi Tadikonda in two ceremonies. The first was a Hindu ceremony in Hyderabad, India where over 150 couples were married with around 5,000 guests. Harriet and Kranthi were the only mixed culture couple and this attracted great interest, featuring on the front page of the Times of India and attracting nine television companies to the event.

The Christian ceremony took place six months later in the Mellor Church on the edge of the Peak District and although the guests were fewer, they were no less distinguished including Howard and Heather Tomlinson.



### **Rob Parry** OH 1997-2001 and **Sophie Johnson**

**On 10 July 2010, Rob Parry and Sophie Johnson were married in Hereford Cathedral by Canon Andrew Piper, the Precentor.**

The cathedral choristers sang under the direction of Choirmaster Geraint Bowen, and Peter Dyke played the organ. Best man was Mike Parry OH. Former staff from HCS, John & Louisa Williams, John & Liz Pooley and Col. Andrew Eames & Mrs Patricia Eames, as well as Dr Roy Massey & Mrs Ruth Massey, were guests. The reception was at Old Court, Symmonds Yat.

Both Rob and Sophie are in the Band of the Coldstream Guards. Sophie is from Bedale, North Yorkshire, and she plays the oboe and cello, while Rob plays trumpet and cornet.

Rob joined the army after leaving HCS and he has now served 8 years in the Band. During his time at HCS he was a chorister for 5 years, and Boy Bishop in 1998.

The couple were unable to have a honeymoon as they were performing in the Edinburgh Tattoo shortly after the wedding, but they hope to go to Alaska during 2011. Rob & Sophie are based in London, where their duties are largely ceremonial, but their job has taken them all over the world, performing military displays and concerts.



Former chorister **Benjamin Swift**, OH 1990-1997, was married in Hereford Cathedral on Sunday 10 October 2010.

OH Committee member **Gareth Dazely**, OH 1989-1994, was recently married.

**Mr. Richard Croot**, teacher of mathematics was married on 23 October 2010.



*OH Travel*

***Two recent leavers, Eleanor Penney and Molly Tucker have received an Old Herefordian Travel Scholarship to help towards worthwhile Gap Year projects.***

**Ellie Penney*****Health assistant in Nicaragua***

**Nicaragua is a beautiful country of lakes and volcanoes, so far largely protected from mass tourism by a violent political history.**

A nation of poets and warriors, its development has been stunted by a history endlessly wracked with tyranny and rebellion, leaving 47% of the population living below the national poverty line and, after Haiti, the second lowest GDP per capita in the Western Hemisphere (International Monetary Fund figures of US\$966 per year compared to \$35,720 in the UK).

The opportunity for me to travel there came at the perfect time: frustrated by university applications and the job search, I was desperate to get away and acutely aware of how fast my precious year of freedom would go. So, when my dentist James Smith, who goes out to do dental clinics every year, asked if I would like to go as his assistant, I jumped at the chance.

The organisation I went out with is a small Hereford based charity called the Peace and Hope Trust ([www.peaceandhope.org.uk](http://www.peaceandhope.org.uk)). When I arrived in Nicaragua my first two frantic weeks were spent with a team of British volunteers on the Caribbean coast, based in the neglected, stifling, overcrowded, colourful, dirty city of Bluefields. As a dental assistant I helped with clinics:

sterilizing instruments with a pressure cooker, setting up trays, holding hands, attempting to translate, fetching water, doing tooth hygiene demonstrations and trying to calm terrified patients! Our first clinic was an old wood-shed; an improvised sheet strung across the room didn't provide much privacy from the gaggle of children who clustered around the door! Dental care is an unaffordable luxury for most people in Bluefields. Our patients' meagre wages came from breaking stones for road building or scouring the municipal dump for usable scraps – the waiting room was always packed full.

It was a four-hour boat trip up to our second base in the village of La Barra, a tiny strip of sand on the mouth of the Rio Grande dotted with coral and turquoise houses on stilts. The previous November, La Barra had been devastated by Hurricane Ida. Patients came to the annual clinic from all the neighbouring villages, some paddling by canoe for three hours then waiting all day to be seen.

We took a day-trip up the misty and mysterious Rio Grande, to the tiny village Esperanza where there had never been a dental clinic before. The two-hour boat trip was peppered with stops at the rudimentary huts we saw on the bank. We were able to give solar powered lights to some immensely poor and isolated families. Compared to the melodramatics of previous clinics, these stoical Miskito Indians showed barely any sign of pain during even the most excruciating extractions! I felt privileged to be part of what was hopefully the first of many dental trips upriver, and the first step towards improving the dental health of those communities.

Over an exhausting seven days of clinics we saw 245 patients, put in 90 fillings and pulled out an incredible 237





teeth! We were very careful to give lots of tooth-brushing demonstrations and were able to give out free toothbrushes to everyone.

After the team left, I settled into life in mountainous Matagalpa. I lived at a rescue home for children, in the home of the family who ran it (the formidable Celtina, her husband Misael and two year-old Patrick). Many of the children had come off the streets or had parents who had deserted them, or couldn't afford to keep them. Twelve year-old Ventura had never been to school and we spent hours going over the alphabet together. César had been at the home for four years and had developed from a furtive, skinny eight year-old who would steal the dog's food to an utterly trustworthy, diligent student.

So much time was spent just playing with the kids who became like brothers and sisters, noisily demanding attention every hour! A particular friend was Marie-Elena. Three months younger than me (18) she had come to La Praga with her two children after running away from a violent man. She had never learned to read or write and we would sit for hours together doing chores (grinding the coffee, sorting beans, washing up...), chatting and learning words of each other's languages. I tried to make the most of my experience, throwing myself into learning Spanish as quickly as I could, telling myself I would get used to cold bucket showers, thumb-sized bugs and hand-washing my clothes in no time! The children's refuge was supported by the proceeds of a bakery so most of my mornings were spent making pastries and rolls, dancing salsa to the radio with Marie-Elena!

For two days every week I helped out at the Centro Nutritional para Niños in town, which takes in extremely malnourished babies and children, often scarily thin and listless, to build them up and try to nurse them back to health. I helped the busy and underpaid nurses with feeding and changing, but more importantly played with the children, encouraging them to use their muscles and giving them some much-needed attention. It's amazing to see how over the months these pitiful babies become healthy, boisterous, alert. Many of the babies' families struggled to feed them and it was always bittersweet when one was ready to go home.

For the past year I had worked in a variety of jobs to fund my trip, and was extremely grateful for the OH travel bursary. It was so encouraging to have the club's support. Just before I left Nicaragua we held a party for the 50 children who come to the feeding programme, a triumphant day of games, food, music. Some of the bursary money bought a sweet-filled piñata and ingredients for the colossal cake we made using the bakery oven, as well as exercise books, crayons and paints for the children.

I couldn't recommend more the experience of going somewhere unknown, putting oneself into another life and culture. I hadn't anticipated the immense friendliness of the Nicaraguans who welcomed and included me in their lives, and the strong friendships I would make. I have met so many interesting and inspiring people, and become so close to the children I lived with. It is hard to shake the feeling of guilt at leaving them and I hope soon to go back and visit, maybe one day work there properly, putting my education to good use.

*Eleanor Penney*

*Eleanor has now taken up her place to study Natural Science at Leeds University.*





**Molly Tucker*****Primary teaching in Tanzania***

**The need for a gap year had always been at the front of my mind as I toiled through the necessary stresses of A Levels, but finding something worthwhile to use it for was a little more of a challenge.**

The traditional Australia scenario, whilst enjoyed by everyone I know who has been, didn't really appeal to me, I wanted a project. Then I found AV. Africa and Asia Venture are a gap year company who link young people with schools and conservation projects in many African countries as well as Mexico and Nepal. I was taken with the company immediately and, although I had initially wanted to be a conservationist, realised that the benefits gained by the local people from volunteer teachers were greater. East Africa held the most appeal for me and I settled on Tanzania, lured in by Mount Kilimanjaro, Zanzibar and some of Africa's most beautiful national parks.

My project would last five months; four spent teaching and a month afterwards left open for travel. It was a daunting prospect, heading out to a developing country to live with a group of other volunteers whom I had never met and try to teach a (massive) class of primary school children... in Swahili. Still, you don't think things through it that much depth to start with and I applied. The first challenge was

raising the seven-grand I needed to pay for flights, insurance, equipment, medical expenses, accommodation and activities. I was worried that working alone was not going to help me raise this much money and I was determined not to rely on my parents, so I wrote to the Old Herefordians' Club and they agreed to sponsor me. I worked full-time for the next five months and by the time it came to leaving on the 18 January I was completely worn out.

After a week's crash course in Swahili, teaching methods and health, volunteers left for their schools. I was living in a village on the slopes of Kilimanjaro. My school was Machame Primary, a mixed state school with around 280 children split into seven classes, or standards as they are known. It was well organised, had a wonderful headmaster, fairly decent buildings and eleven lovely female teachers. My teaching partner, Kim, and I fell in love with this little school. We were given Standards 3 and 5 for English and we taught them every day following the regional curriculum but pretty much ignoring the useless textbooks. This took quite a lot of imagination and loss of inhibitions: picture lessons on verbs and the actions for 'dancing'.

We also took the entire school for games. This was just crazy. The children just love sport. The boys are obsessed with football and some of them are very good. Luckily we had brought a few balls with us as they only had one very flat decrepit one. All they wanted to do was play and would





self-referee much better than I could. So we focused on the girls, for whom sport is considered unimportant, and taught the older girls the rules of netball; while it wasn't exactly beautiful play, it was enthusiastic and screaming, hugging and running followed every goal.

We had nine wonderful but tiring weeks at Machame during which we had explored local towns and visited the East African Rift Valley, Lake Manyara, Tarangire and Ngorongoro National Parks experiencing my first safari! At half-term we headed to the Indian Ocean and the spice island of Zanzibar. It is as fantastic as its name and every evening is blessed with spectacular sunsets. Beach parties, warm sea, scuba diving, sunbathing and seafood, it was bliss.

On our return to school the rainy season had set in and highlighted the shortcomings of our house. It was basic to say the least: clothes didn't dry, it was cold and dark and everything felt dirty all the time. Homesickness hit everyone hard as did dysentery and infection. By this time, however, the bonds formed between housemates, teachers and children at school were rock solid and we stumbled through laughing. By the time it came to say goodbye to school we were all a little heartbroken. Kim and I had decided to use our donation money to connect the school buildings to electricity, in the hope that step-by-step this will improve teaching by providing more options and be something that future volunteers can build on. We also discovered that some of our school's brightest students had no hope of continuing education after they finish in October, being unable to afford the fees for state secondary school. This is only the equivalent of £60 per year and so Kim and I are sponsoring one child each until they graduate from sixth form. I think this will be the best money I ever spend.

After a very emotional leaving ceremony where the children sang and danced and the teachers gave us speeches of thanks and a wonderful meal, we left Machame destined for the source of the River Nile in Uganda. Here we spent three days white-water rafting and explored Jinja, Lake

Victoria and then Kampala on the way back east to Kenya and the Indian Ocean, near Mombasa. I spent this time battling with the idea of coming back to Hereford, which was difficult to imagine, and going back to work and then university.

Once back in Nairobi, AV had arranged a five-day safari to Lake Nakuru and the Masai Mara. We were very excited and by no means disappointed. It was the last chance for the group to spend time together before being redistributed across the UK and the USA for one member!

It was with a swirling mixture of excitement and sadness that we boarded the flight back to Heathrow but we all concluded that the slog of work had been totally worth it. We had made life-long friends, seen so much and not wasted a minute of those five months.





## Notable Old Herefordians

### OH Somerset Scholars 4:

#### George Yeld, the Younger (1845-1938)

**My fourth OH Somerset scholar was older but lived longer than my first three – Fred Weatherly, the lyricist (1848-1929), E J Rapson, the Sanskrit scholar (1861-1937), and John Hubert Ware, athlete and clergyman (1863-1907).**

For George Yeld was born in the first decade of the young Queen Victoria, educated at HCS in the mid Victorian period and survived into the reign of George VI, dying at the grand age (for that period) of 93. He also differs in occupation from my three predecessors in that he was a schoolmaster, and a highly successful one at that, serving on the staff of St Peter's School, York, for nearly 52 years, one of the longest records of continuous service at any school in modern times.

Yeld's father (George senior) ran a successful farm, which bred pedigree Hereford cattle, at Twyford, Eardisland. Nothing is known about his son's early schooling, but by June 1858 George junior was winning prizes in English Literature, Latin and Chemical Science at the new Hereford Proprietary School, Barr's Court. His scholarly abilities were further honed from 1859 at HCS, where he spent four productive years. Although it was to be nearly two decades before the first *Herefordian* was to

be published (in 1878), we know that by 1862 he was a member of the cricket XI, and that he probably developed his life long passion for the game at our school. His poetic talents, too, were developed at HCS by John Woollam, George's Headmaster, who awarded him a special prize for English verse composition (as well as the senior Classics prize) in June 1863. During prize-giving in College Hall on 17th June that year, that great educationalist, Dean Richard Dawes, also congratulated Yeld, who was by this time Head Boy, on his winning the Somerset scholarship and Philpottine exhibition to Brasenose, Oxford, and expressed the hope 'that when he went to Oxford he would do credit to the Hereford Cathedral School'.

The Dean's hope was to be amply fulfilled at university, not by his academic achievements – he gained a second in 'Mods' in 1865 and a third in Law and Modern History two years later – but by his success in winning in 1866 the Newdigate Prize for English verse, a prize presented to him by Matthew Arnold, the Newdigate prizeman of 1843.

Despite his modest degree, the gaining of this prestigious award was no doubt crucial for his appointment in 1868 as an assistant master at St Peter's, a foundation not too dissimilar from his own *alma mater*. And it was at York that his career really flourished – as a teacher of Classics, English, History and Geography; as the master responsible for drama productions; and (in his spare time) as a leading mountaineer (in the Alps and the Eastern Caucasus), who edited *'The Alpine Journal'* for 30 years, and the world's foremost hybridiser of *Hemerocallis* (Day Lilies) and the first President of the Iris Society.

We can do no better than cite this extract from his obituary in *The Peterite* of May 1938:

*'The death of George Yeld...must have awakened many memories among the scores of Old Peterites who had profited by his vigorous teaching...A long association of visitors to the Christmas plays will always associate him with those performances...Mr Yeld had been accustomed to write a prologue recounting the chief events of the year – he had a facile turn for rhyme which displayed itself in his last poem,*



Portrait of George Yeld – complete with lily in the background! – which hangs in the Memorial Hall at St Peter's, York.



which was composed at the age of 74 just after the [Great] War...He had the punctilious and iron-bound sense of duty of the old Victorian schoolmaster – he never missed attendance at Chapel or a cricket match, and his unfailing loyalty and love of St Peter's allowed him to subordinate his natural conservatism and to give wholehearted support to the pressing changes and reforms of the which the school stood in need...Mr Yeld was a fine example of physical fitness. At York he did his daily walk so that he might climb his Alpine peak every year...He loved his flowers...and he contributed articles annually to horticultural and mountaineering papers...To Peterites, however, his memory will be most dear for his love of Shakespeare, which he instilled into them, and for his booming voice which thundered against the miscreant who failed to appreciate the importance of Latin grammar on the one hand and the British Empire on the other...A certain contentment with [his] environment prevented his aspiring to the position of a headmaster...As it was, he played a fine part and everyone...who met him gained something from the "grand old man of St Peter's."

It is a fitting epitaph for a great schoolmaster and a distinguished Old Herefordian.

**Howard Tomlinson**

[I am indebted to Mr Richard Smyth, former Headmaster of St Peter's, and Mr George Alderson of the Eardisland History and Heritage Society, for help with this article.]



## OH Memories

### APPRECIATIONS

#### **Bernard Edwards**

**John Ward (School House, 1953-1956) remembers an exceptional Rugby coach:**

**Bernard Edwards, who died in September 2009 aged ninety, was HCS post-war rugby coach for over twenty years.**

Some of his earlier successful teams and players became legendary (e.g. Welshman Johnny Harries, team captain 1951, later regular outside-half for Wasps 1st XV); but he was still coaching long after that. A small, dapper man with crinkly blond hair, he knew rugby backwards, and – it was rumoured – was only kept out of the Welsh side by the great Haydn Tanner. Actually we never knew the facts of his playing career, but it was certainly at a seriously high level.

He was a quiet, level-headed, rather formal person. He never gesticulated, shouted, lost his temper, waved his arms about or anything of the kind. Even after great victories (Christ College Brecon 27-0) or sickening defeats (Monmouth 8-11 after leading 8-0) emotions were kept in check. After a match, in a classroom or on the coach home, he would quietly summarise the game, complimenting little but never discouraging. A rather stern manner covered deep kindness and patience, and we knew we were being individually appraised, for our own good.

In 1955 I was captain – an indifferent one alas, next to class acts Lawton Evans, Geoff Miller and Alick Rowe before and after. But 'Bernie' worked closely with captains and you learnt much. Training sessions were hard work; a sharp rebuke here, a terse word of praise there; scrummaging and back movements tried out, weaknesses worked on, skills taught. Selecting teams or awarding colours, he would ask your views, listen patiently, suggest a couple of modifications, and give his reasons. It was soon clear he was right.

Bernard was a graduate of the University of Wales and taught modern languages. His manner was the same in the classroom as on the field. His lessons were professional, quiet, calm and systematic. Rugby was never mentioned once; no one would have dared. He did everything he did with thoughtful dignity; life was serious, there were standards to be kept. He kept them. We were fortunate to know him.



**Bernard Edwards, 1st XV Coach  
1955-1956;  
Seated John Ward (Captain)**



**Dennis Mack 1928-2009**

**Geoffrey Burgess (OH 1954-62) pays tribute to his late House Master:**

**I was sad to read that Dennis Mack had died; I was a little surprised he was an octogenarian.**

Dennis was the master I respected most. I recently came across some of my letters home from HCS. One mentioned a talk with Dennis two months before I left; I remember it well. He was relating criticism from some masters. He said he defended me in the Common Room; he even agreed that a fellow mathematician was a bit intolerant of those, like me, no good at his subjects. The meeting had started as a 'speaking to', but it developed into a wider discussion about me, and about my future. I left the very long meeting in a positive frame of mind: the mark of a good personal appraisal.

Dennis tried to equip us for the outside world. He served sherry at monitors' meetings - I still love a pre-prandial glass - and told us that although as boarding house monitors we had military-style disciplinary powers, in the wider world we would have to *lead* rather than *command* people. He experimented with the most senior boys having unsupervised prep; he introduced two monitors remaining in the House during Evensong for security purposes. He let the House go to the May Fair after supper, to enjoy the special atmosphere of a fair lit up at night. Late in my CCF experience, I decided I would complete the hat trick and do the Engineer's course. I used to carry a piece of rope about, to practise the many knots we had to know. Although Dennis was not involved with the CCF, I recall one night, when I was duty monitor and he duty master, both of us tying knots on a bedstead while supervising Dorm E's bedtime. Talking

of bedtime: The 2009 Newsletter had a piece about Harley House boarders being sung to sleep. In 1956, I recall the nightly sound floating up to School House Dorm F from the bathroom, as seniors sung the hymn *Bread of Heaven*: a sort of School House anthem.

Dennis, a chain smoker, was a little dishevelled; although he had something of the air of a scholarly mathematician, it did not surprise me that he had left teaching for the challenging world of computer science. Dennis showed that he was no dusty academic when his American girlfriend's blue MGA sports car was parked outside School House one weekend.

I am glad Dennis Mack was my housemaster.

---

**Peter Skinner**

**Edward Marvin (OH 1965-1970) pays tribute:**

**Mr Skinner was my Housemaster in Deanery between 1965 and 1970.**

In my opinion, he was an extraordinary person and a man who has inspired me throughout my life. Although a strong disciplinarian, he had a great sense of humour and led by example. He constantly amazed us with his enthusiasm and untiring efforts for we students.

One poor lad, who shall remain nameless, was unfortunate to have been caught smoking! Instead of the sound thrashing everyone expected, he was shut in Mr Skinner's study and told to smoke the whole packet of cigarettes, there and then! The noise of the luckless individual retching was the signal that ended the punishment and certainly caught everyone's imagination. I wonder whether he has ever touched another cigarette since that episode?

It sounds slightly odd these days to

reflect on how much PS did for us back then. He was always there and gave up most of his time to look after we boarders, many of whom were far from home. Most of our weekends were taken up with sporting activities. We regularly spent Saturday nights camping out and, during climbing and walking trips to Snowdonia, Mr Skinner was ready to lead us all after the long minibus drive from Hereford.

With his obvious enthusiasm for outdoor pursuits and marine activity together with his important role as rowing coach in the HCS Boat Club, he even taught us to build our own canoes during the winter months. This was in preparation for launching them onto the River Wye during the following summer, usually with disastrous but hilarious consequences.

I became a House monitor, then a School monitor when in the 6th Form and Mr Skinner always had time to discuss matters and talk things through with me. He certainly treated his "senior" pupils like adults and I had huge respect for him.

On leaving HCS I joined the Army. I still take groups out into the mountains and Mr Skinner is never far from my thoughts.

A kind and generous man, he was a fantastic example to all and I will remember him always.

Rest in Peace, Peter and Thank You.

---

**Constantine Holland-Skinner OH 1940-1943**

**A C Smith has sent this appreciation of his school friend:**

**"Constantine Holland-Skinner died on the 12 June 2009. He was my best friend at Hereford Cathedral School.**

He joined the school late, from Taunton, as a fourth-former and boarder for his first term following his father's appointment as Vicar of



Garway. It was not a good time to join a new school, much less to be a boarder, and he heartily disliked it. I seem to remember that his parents made him a day pupil and he came to school thereafter by bicycle and by bus. The arrangement suited him well because it enabled him to avoid cricket and rugby and the OTC. He avoided school dinners too, as I did. We probably made do with a bun and spent our dinner-hours walking together on Castle Green talking endlessly about all manner of things. Con had a splendid sense of humour and an inventive approach to what he would have called 'japes'.

One of the lesser but lasting blessings of this friendship was his addiction to the *Magnet* and the *Gem*. The Greyfriars stories were dated even in those days, but I still do enjoy them – "yaroooh!" Indeed, I think the only birthday present I ever gave him was a *Greyfriars Annual* dated 1923. But his interest in literature was very broad. He enthused also over what we might nowadays call SF. The first SF novel I ever read after Jules Verne and HG Wells was RC Sherif's *Hoskins Manuscript* at Con's suggestion. By a singular coincidence, he was later to become the brother-in-law of Arthur C Clarke.

His was a very happy home. I spent a holiday at Garway Vicarage in the summer of 1941. I remember my first evening there as one of the happiest times in my whole life. He and his sister Dorothy and I climbed Garway Hill and looked out over one of the best landscapes I have ever seen. The vicarage was lighted with oil lamps and we ate fresh bread for our supper. At bed-time, Con came to my bedroom to reassure me against the strange noises I should hear on the landing during the night as the grandfather clock prepared to strike: "it's just to tell you that it's not a ghost."

Con was not a military kind of person and, as his call-up drew near, he declared to me his wish to join the RAF and drive one of their sixty-foot trailers – much the longest vehicles to be seen on the road in those days. As things turned out, he was drafted into the Royal Armoured Corps. Afterwards, he told me with some pride that he had three times to bale out from a tank which had caught fire during the Italian campaign.

When I was demobilised I visited Con and his sister. They were sharing a flat in Brixton Hill, and Con had just begun a career in local government. Con had come out of the army with a keen and enthusiastic interest in popular music. He had an immense collection of records, which in the jargon of the time he always spoke of as "discs" or "platters".

Con came of Protestant stock, but in his latter life he converted to Roman Catholicism. He was very happy to make the change. He ended his days at Burnham Market, no more than a stone's throw from Walsingham. Late in my life, I rode my bicycle over to Burnham Market. A timely visit – we have both been in poor health ever since, though he remained active in the life of the church.

His kindness remained. When my wife died, he assured me that he would offer up prayers on her behalf. And, just to cheer me up, he sent me a tape of his own recording: The Ladybirds, Jo Stafford, Jack Teegarten and other stalwarts of our era. There was expertise in this. Years later, I learned that Norwich Radio had retained his services as one of their consultants in Big Band music at about this time.

Con died at home after a four weeks' illness. Dorothy nursed him to the end of his days.

I hope that we shall meet in Glory. Soon."

## Cold comfort at HCS?

**The interview with Major Sir Michael Parker in OHN 2009, in which he claimed HCS in the 1950s was 'cold, dirty and brutal... bullying and beatings were rife' has caused some controversy!**

**Here are a few responses:**

**Geoffrey Burgess** (School House 1954-62): "I agree completely with comments by my contemporary Sir Michael Parker, about the harsh discipline by monitors, and total lack of comforts in the 1950s School House. I also agree that there was very little sign of masters acting in *loco parentis*.

"On Sundays, we had to be off the premises between 1400-1600h. Almost the whole town was out of bounds in those days, but as it was intended that we should have a healthy country walk, we were allowed to go through it on Sundays. In my early days at HCS, some of us spent time 'hiding' at the railway station; after paying one penny for a Platform Ticket, we had access to a fire in the waiting room. One Sunday evening I was summoned to Mr Hornby's study and asked to recount where I had been in the afternoon. I was asked the streets I walked along and what I had done on those streets. It seems pathetic now that this master had followed me, noting down that I had stopped to look in three or four shop windows (all shops closed on Sundays in those days!). When I confirmed his notes, he gated me for a week."

**S G Ellson** (OH 1957-64): "I was interested to read the piece on Michael Parker and I can confirm school was at times brutal. Monitors had a lot of power. I was in East House but was hit by a monitor from School House with a gym shoe (dap) containing a pair of pliers. He would be prosecuted for assault today! But our code of silence was very strong."



**Donald James** (OH 1941-46): "Those of us who were wartime boarders at HCS will have been surprised to read that Sir Michael Parker found the school, in his day: '*cold, dirty and brutal*' and that the masters '*did not take a great deal of interest in us*'. Sir Michael was at Hereford some ten years after the war and those epithets of his must be even more accurate descriptions of the School House regime during the war, when one element, brutality, was perhaps partly a fallout of the more terrible brutalities being witnessed everywhere. But partly also because of the quality of the wartime staff – except the humane chaplain Lawson, who often took some of us round to his home in the cloisters and played us his large collection of gramophone records: a great treat in those days."

**Clive Pearce** (OH 1953-60): "I read the article interviewing Mike Parker with interest and some annoyance.

"I was a contemporary of his... Frankly, I don't recognise the Dickensian squalor and brutality he mentions. Although there were occasional lapses of good taste and behaviour by both staff and senior pupils, most were in the nature of 'rites of passage' which although probably unacceptable now, were perfectly ordinary then. And as Mike mentions, in the passage of time, most people became perpetrators after their initial period as victim.

"I would welcome the opportunity of letting you have a short piece on the period which would hopefully provide a balance to Mike's somewhat jaundiced view."

(Unfortunately, there is insufficient space in this issue, but we may take up Mr. Pearce's offer for a future edition. – Ed.)

**David B Roberts** (School House 1949-56): "I would like to comment on your interview with Major Sir Michael Parker. We must have been contemporaries, but I do not remember him.

"I could write at length about the school being '*cold, dirty and brutal*'. But briefly, coal rationing, introduced during the war, did not end until 1958, which meant that the whole nation suffered from the cold; and, although being small, wearing short trousers in my first year, having a strong Welsh accent, being hopeless at all games and something of a swat, I can never recall being bullied, nor do I recall the older boys seeming to '*take a delight in being as unpleasant as possible*'. I was eventually made Head of School House, and the following year Head of School. I suspect I was the first boy to occupy either position without having represented the school (or indeed the House) in any sport at any level, which I believe testifies to the enlightenment of the Headmaster, Mr Hopewell. I suppose as Head of House I may have joined the bullies, but if I did I was not aware of it.

"Where I must take issue with Sir Michael Parker is in his views '*that most of the masters did not take a great deal of interest in us*' and that '*the education system must have changed for the better; it could hardly have got worse!*' On the contrary, I thought that most masters were good, many were excellent, and to them, and the education system they implemented, I owe my academic success. The Headmaster Mr Hopewell a kind, humane and gentle man led by example. I could comment on almost all those who taught me, most left a vivid impression, but instead I will mention those that influenced me the most. [...] John Brookes, who to my surprise and probably his, through his patience, got me a respectable O level in Latin, which at that time was necessary for entrance to Cambridge; R D Lancaster who had sufficient interest to encourage me to try for Cambridge despite not teaching me in the sixth form; but above all, Jimmy Rowlands. Jimmy would not claim to be the greatest Biologist, but he was an inspirational teacher who instilled in his pupils, if they were receptive, a love of the subject."

*Read further details of David Roberts career on page 21.*

## School Memories

**Barry Howard, OH 1955-59, who is now retired and lives in North Yorkshire with his wife Jenny writes:**

**"I was really excited at re-establishing contact with HCS, having not received on OH magazine for over 30 years.**

I had an undistinguished time as a dayboy in East House from both the sporting and academic points of view, leaving the sixth form with just one A level in geography, a subject I was persuaded to pursue by Harold

Lush who said to me: "Howard, you are not up to much academically so you had better do geography at A level as people who only manage to pass one A level usually make it with geography." He was right.

The highlights of my four years were rowing for the school and being an Under-Officer and platoon commander in the CCF.

My parents and I came to Hereford in 1955 as part of the big Henry Wiggin & Co move from Birmingham. I sat a modified form of the Common Entrance Exam on my own in the Headmaster's house

under the watchful eye of Mr Hopewell, who was replaced later that year by Mr Peebles. I remember little about Mr Hopewell except that he was a kindly man who "had lost a lung at Gallipoli". Mr Peebles was introduced to us as "the brother of Ian Peebles who had played cricket for England".

My father made great financial sacrifices to send me to HCS, and I will be forever grateful for the education the school gave me.

2009 was a good year to re-establish contact as I was able to reflect on some of the wonderful



characters we had as Masters in the late 1950's, most of whom are sadly no longer with us: Mr Brookes of course, "Dotty" Morse, "Pooh" Bayliss, "Bernie" Edwards, Mr Mack, "Pete" Skinner, Mr Glover, the Rev "Eddie" Preston, and "Tiger" Bell (who only spoke to me once in four years, and that was to invite me to subscribe to the *Times* for 2d per day – less than 1p!)

Mr Skinner and Mr Mack were our rowing coaches, and I have strong memories of them cycling furiously along the banks of the River Wye on sunny Wednesday and Saturday afternoons, megaphone in hand,

urging us to "pull harder" or "up our rate". I still have my school boater which we wore at regattas.

The best of all was Harold Lush. He was a truly wonderful man, completely open and genuine, and I could write a book of anecdotes about him, both as a teacher and as OC of the CCF. I am glad he lived to a good age – he certainly deserved to.

I was saddened to learn of the premature death from cancer of John Gagg (OH 1952-60). He was a contemporary and a good friend. He was CSM in the CCF and said that he enjoyed the feeling of "power" which his rank gave him! He and I did

several Army courses together during the holidays and I remember one particular course at KSLI at Shrewsbury which seemed to include a lot of time in the gym. John made up for his lack of natural athletic aptitude by having heaps of enthusiasm, earning himself the name of "Hercules" from the PTI. I am sure John is missed by many people, both in the UK and in Australia.

I spent nearly 31 years in financial services, retiring in 1996 as South of England Regional Manager for a subsidiary of what is now the Lloyds Banking Group.

We moved to Pickering five years ago, and any OH would be welcome to come and visit and stay with us in this glorious part of England."



Barry Howard in his school boater

### First DoE Golds

***This cutting is taken from the Hereford Times, May 1961 and shows the first pupils from HCS to gain the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award.***

J K Webb, S F M Kings, R J Blackhall and C Chambers (I Failey is not in the photograph).





*OTC Information Request***Douglas Reed would like help with his research about his grandfather Len Pember who appears in this 1937 photo of HCS OTC.**

Do any readers recognise the faces in the photo and know what happened to them during the war? He would also like any information on the OTC and its activities.

He has identified Edward B Meddlicott Helme, Bill Brook, Freddie Stroud and Ken Sayce as well as ? Smith, ? Singer and ? Edwards; the officers are believed to be Lt Job Butler Morgan and 2nd John Ernest William Scougall.

Other boys who were in the HCS OTC, but their dates are not known: Cadet Corporals – Paul Eric Barnsley, Francis Henry Gerald Craze, Roy Hollinrake, William George Watkins. Cadet Lance-Corporal – Wallace James Cottle, Edward John Lewis. Cadets – Gilbert Aikins, George Herbert Guy Edwards, Peter Trefor Griffiths, Jack Rowland Lawrence, Thomas Grierson Allen Watson, John Ernest White

He would also be interested to hear from anyone who served with 2nd Battalion, the Herefordshire Regiment, during 1939-1942. Other Herefordshire gentlemen who served in the 2nd Herefords and had been in the OTC, but not necessarily with HCS OTC, were John Dickson Cuthbertson (Ross), George William Hunt, John Stafford Kemp (Ross), Geoffrey Wyndham Lewis (Ross), John Howard Lord (Hereford), Godfrey Stuart Gunter Nash (Christchurch), Eric Francis Underwood (Hereford), Basil Yewdall Watson (Ross) and Donald Yewdall Watson (Ross).

Leonard James Pember was awarded a "free place" at HCS in May 1932. He went on to pass the school certificate exams of July 1936. After leaving HCS, he was employed as a clerk at the council. In March 1939, he

joined the Herefordshire Regt (TA) and was soon promoted to the rank of Corporal. He went on to serve with 2nd Battalion the Herefordshire Regt (1939-42) and as a Staff Sergeant in the Glider Pilot Regt (1942-46). As the pilot of a Horsa assault glider, he took part in the ill-fated Operation 'Market Garden' (Battle of Arnhem) in September 1944. Fortunately, he was one of the few who escaped back across the Rhine at the end of the battle.

Email: [dougreedsa@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:dougreedsa@yahoo.co.uk). Postal address: c/o Mrs D. Reed, "The Hedgerows", Cleobury Lane, Earlswood, Solihull, West Midlands, B94 6AF.





# Old Hereford News



## Photo 1

The photo was taken in Sept 1970, comprising of 2nd/3rd year sixth, Old Deanery boarders, New House monitors: Back row: ? 'Hod' Edwards, Richard 'Bert' Lewis, Richard Aston, Stuart Macoustra. Front row: Colin Jennings, Paul Couper, Steve Rowlands, Charles Wrigley.

Colin was head of school, Capt. Cricket and Rugby and my Bridge partner. Edwards and Couper cricket, Lewis 1st. cricket and rugby as was I. Other three rugby and Charles head of CCF and also member of a very successful bridge team.

My daughters Holly and Pippa are both OH's and I'm in my final years as a BA 747 Captain. It would be great to hear from Drs Macoustra and Rowlands. I have not seen Colin since OH cricket 1971 which we, as 18 year old OHs, won!  
*Thanks to: Richard Aston, Hereford.*

## Photo 3

Mr D. W. Theakston, cricket coach, standing in the middle  
*Thanks to: Anthony Goddard, Hampshire, and Peter Fairman-Bourn, London*

## Photo 5

Back row, 2nd from left is Brian Towell, 4th is Credwyn Bessant. In front of Brian Towell is Paul Power. Probably taken in 1973/74.

*Thanks to: Tony Tugwell, California.*

## Photo 6

"Seated extreme right is the great Kenneth Allenby Norris. He was a very talented individual. Not only was he frighteningly clever but he sang beautifully, played the piano by ear brilliantly and was a good sportsman. This is a Fives 'photo taken in



# ians' 2009 letter



HCS Archive  
Memories...

What have you got in  
your archive?

If you can name any  
of the faces in these  
photographs,  
please get in touch.

## Photo 6 (contd.)

1963/4. He and I once beat the England international pair at those dreadful courts behind the chemistry lab! It is in the classroom that he excelled. So easy did he find the A Level course that in a year, he taught himself Welsh and passed the O Level. He went up to St. John's Cambridge. Later he 'invented a blood counting machine' sold out to Vickers Medical and became a millionaire. A lovely, self-effacing man with a great sense of humour; tragically he took his own life, I know not why."

Thanks to: Stuart G. Ellson (OH 57-64)

The teacher is Mr H. K. Hill (OH '40 - '49) who went up to St. John's College, Cambridge before returning to HCS as a teacher in 1954.

Thanks to: Peter Fairman-Bourn

## Photo 7

I was pleased to recognise myself (Matthew Hyland) together with Mr Shave and other members of the HCS squash team. I remember Richard Binnersley, Paul Nellist and Chris Blower from the picture. I also remember Patrick Shave, Miles Price and of course Clive Weston who regularly played for the squash team.

Thanks to: Matthew Hyland, Birmingham.

## Photo 8

Mr Harold Lush teaching Geography.

## Photo 11

Chemistry class with Mr Dunn. I recognize Adam Sinclair (Bottom Right) James Harrington, two over from Sinclair; Andrew Skipp next to him. Can't see myself, but probably goofing off in the back with Robert Macadie.

Thanks to: Tony Tugwell.

## Photo 12

I think the photo was taken in May/June 79 and this is the Investors in Industry award winning team - we went to Bristol to an inter-school presentation where school sixth form teams had to say why industry was a good thing - it was generally regarded as somehow "bad" or shunned in favour of the professions then. We did a team piece that was, I vaguely recall, a play on the importance of industry and how it permeates people's lives - but it may have been nothing quite so grand. We were sponsored by Bulmers and the man holding the plaque is - I think - Mr Prior the MD of Bulmers at the time.

L to R: Claire Parry, Janette Sinclair (who joined us in the 6th form), Richard Norton, Nick J Badman (holding shield), Mr Prior, Barry Sutton the head looking proud of his pupils, Carolyn Baker, Christopher Bright, someone with a bad haircut impersonating me (!) or it could be Russell Wynne.

Thanks to: Guy Maughfling in Kenya

## Photo 13

Peter Williams OH (far left), and next to him may well be Keith Hill, OH, headmaster of the prep school, 4th from right is Mr Richard Rhodes.

Thanks to: Guy Maughfling

## Photo 15

Back row: RC Jancey, WJ Edwards; middle: JB Evans (Head of Deanery House and Captain of School 1952), Mr Lush, BH Tummy; in front: MJ Strawbridge. They were the 1st 1V school crew in summer 1952 that represented the school at races against Monmouth and Worcester and Marlow Regatta. I started at The Deanery as a boarder the same time as John Brookes in September 1951. He gave me my school nick name Jessie James [JCUJAMES]!

John James

## Photo 16

It's not a School House photo (as claimed on p.33) - it is the Cathedral Voluntary Choir, that used to sing for the Sunday morning Eucharist. It consisted mainly, but not exclusively, of HCS pupils and staff. We estimate the photo was taken around 1965.

These are our best guesses: Back row: (1/2/3 ?) 4 Martin Edwards, 5 Richard Carter, 6 Bill Christmas, 7 Tony Rickell, 8 Philip Griffiths, 9 Richard Gray, (10 ?), 11 Richard Christmas.

Middle row: (1 ? not from school), 2 John Helm, 3 Chris Roberts, 4 Peter Skinner, 5 Roger Fisher (assistant organist at the Cathedral who founded and ran the choir), 6 Charles Neil, 7 Alec Rowe, 8 Brian Carter?, 9 William Godwin (10 ? not from school).

Front row: (1/2 ?), 3 Ireson?, 4 Clive Hobday, (5/6 ?), 7 Jamieson?

The late Andrew Gray should be in the front row somewhere - maybe 5??

Thanks to: Chris Roberts and Bill Christmas



## Obituaries

***We have been notified of the following Old Herefordians who have sadly passed away and we offer our condolences to their families and friends.***

### **Michael I Baldwin OH 1945-1948**

Michael Baldwin died on Sunday 30 May 2010 at his home in Hampshire at the age of 77.

He attended the Cathedral School as a dayboy in West House just after the end of WWII. His father before him, I. O. Baldwin (OH 1919-1925) had also been a pupil at HCS just after the Great War although the family later moved to Frome, Somerset.

On leaving HCS Michael joined the Royal Air Force, serving overseas for many years. He qualified as an Armourer and during a tour of duty across the Far East, he was stationed for a short while in mainland China. It was reported in the Herefordian journal (May 1955) that he won no less than five different trophies, a silver tankard and a medal, during a competition staged in Singapore by the Far East Air Forces Small Arms Association. The article concluded: *"Michael has probably helped to lessen the tension that has emerged in the region as a result of his sharp-shooting techniques, which have doubtless restrained the Chinese Communists from any rash action!"* On retiring from the RAF, he worked in the City of London.

Despite his increasing frailty in recent years, Michael visited Herefordshire in 2008 with his wife Jill. Their holiday included a tour of the cathedral and visiting the place where he used to live as a schoolboy.

Michael was a stalwart supporter of the OH Club and it is with much regret that we shall no longer be able to welcome him to the many OHIL luncheons he used to attend as well as the London Dinners in St James's.

**Peter Fairman-Bourn**

### **David J Benjamin OH 1965-1971**

David Benjamin died at Herefordshire County Hospital on Sunday 18 July 2010, following a heart attack at his home in Whitecross. He was 56.

At school he was a keen sportsman and, on leaving at the age of 17, David went on to play full-back for Hereford Rugby Club for almost 20 years; he became 2nd XV captain, club steward and eventually Chairman.

The son of leading fishmonger Tom Benjamin, from the Hereford Butter Market, David assisted his father behind the counter whilst still attending HCS and continued with the family business until his death. Fellow Butter Market traders were devastated by the news of his death, claiming that he was 'part of the furniture' and describing him as *"a generous man... always laughing and joking and would do anything for anyone"*.

David recently served as a councillor in Hereford's St Nicholas ward. Council leader Kevin Wargen said David Benjamin was "passionate" about the city centre and will be greatly missed. He said: *"David will leave a legacy as someone who cared very much for Hereford and who always went that extra mile."* David was also a committee member of Herefordshire Lore, which publishes photographs and memories of Herefordshire life.

His funeral took place in Hereford Cathedral followed by a reception in the Shire Hall. He leaves his wife Nina and children Nicholas, Robert and Anna. (With thanks to *Hereford Times*)

### **Roy Blackler OH 1931-1937**

Roy Blackler, Chairman of the OH Trustees, sadly passed away at his home on 15 June 2010, aged 89.

After leaving school in 1937, Roy was called up to serve during WWII. On being de-mobbed, he started in industry as a finance officer and eventually became involved in local politics, also becoming a diocesan lay reader and a member of the parochial church council. In 1957, at the age of just 37, Roy was appointed the 576th Major of Hereford. A year later Roy made history at the Hereford Rotary Club when he was elected a member during his mayoralty.

Keenly interested in education, he later joined the boards of management of All Saints', St. Owen's and St. Peter's schools and became Vice-Chairman of the Governors of Tupsley School. He was also a member of the Lord Scudamore Trust, and a Governor of the Boys' and Girls' High Schools.

In 1960 Roy was appointed regional manager of the United Dominions Trust at Bristol, with jurisdiction over six counties.

His other roles included the chairmanship of All Saints' Charities and Coningsby Museum, and President of Hereford's Conservative Club. As a magistrate, he was well known to many in Hereford as a straight-talking "hang-em and flog-em official", a tag he claimed he never shied away from. In 1983 he was awarded Hereford's highest honour – the freedom of the city.

Roy had met his wife Joyce at a Young Conservatives meeting in Hereford before the outbreak of war, not long after leaving HCS, and in June 2002 they celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary. Roy will be remembered as a much-loved husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather.

**PFB**



## Obituaries

### David P E Cole

We have recently learnt David Cole passed away in 2008. He was a pupil at the school in the 1940s.

### Ronald E Curtis, (SqN Ldr), DSO, DFC OH 1933-1940

Ronald Edgar (Ron) Curtis, SqN Ldr (Retd), died on 9th January, aged 87.

During his years at HCS, Ronald was a keen sportsman. In 1939-40 he was awarded his 1st XV, 1st XI and 1st IV Full Colours and the Venables (Football) Cup; he was also Captain of Boats in 1940. He was a Corporal in the OTC and was a member of the Day Boys team which won the Catto Cup for shooting.

He gained a Somerset Exhibition in Mathematics to St John's College, Cambridge. After retiring from the army Ronald pursued a career as an Engineer.

Married to Molly, he was a loving father, grandfather and great grandfather. His funeral was held at St Nicolas Church, Kings Norton.

### Eifion J. E. Evans OH 1952-1958

Eifion joined the School in 1952 and entered Deanery House as a boarder. He went on to University College, Cardiff and qualified as a pharmacist. He then practiced in Carmarthen, where he continued running his chemist shop until recently.



At school he was a prolific sprinter and won several trophies in athletics competitions and played scrum-half for the 1st XV during the 1956/57 season. The 1st XV Captain, Alick E. Rowe, wrote in the Herefordian (May 1957):

*"This tough little player is somewhat of a paradox; when the fifteen play generally poorly, EJE plays exceptionally well. Likewise, when we have been playing well, he has often hit on one of his slow days. When the balance is struck however, he is an invaluable scrum half. His service is good, and his weaving runs for the line have mesmerised both his opponents and ourselves. His first-time kicks too have helped us. I believe next season will show him as one of our best post-war scrum halves."*

He was awarded the captaincy the following year by Coach Mr Bernard Edwards. He was also a House Monitor between 1957/58.

#### John Eede remembers:

*"Eifion came from Llanybyther in Cardiganshire, where his father ran a well-known agricultural equipment business. We were always very impressed when his parents turned up to see him in a very large Humber Super Snipe. We shared a study*

*together in the 6th form. I am sure that many will remember him as a very good rugby player and all-round athlete. Small but tough and very fast, and a first class scrum-half. I also seem to recall that he won the victor ludorum on at least one occasion, excelling in the sprinting events."*

### Charlotte Anne Fontaine OH 1993-1998

Sadly, Charlotte Fontaine (born 1982) died unexpectedly in her sleep, August 2010. Charlotte enjoyed her time at HCS, travelling to Hereford daily from Abergavenny, and she made her own contribution to the life of the school: she played flute in the school orchestra and was a keen member of the CCF.



She transferred to Hereford Sixth Form College and took A levels in Theology, English and French. During her Gap year she joined 'Ski-le-Gap' in Canada and trained to be a ski instructor.

In her choice of university course she reverted to her first love – art. She studied for her degree in Fine Art in Bristol and then gained a Diploma in Theatrical Make-up in Leeds; she was the winner of the national Hair and Beauty Competition 2009. She had just started to work with professional photographers and fashion designers.

### John Lewis Griffiths OH

John Lewis Griffiths, who died on the 5 August 2009 aged 81, attended the school during the Second World War and joined the Army in 1947.

### John Antony Hemingway OH 1976-1983

John started at HCS in September 1976 and quickly joined in various activities: rowing, rugby, Venture Scouts and CCF. He became Under-Officer with the CCF, driving and hosting Inspection Day. He set his sights on a military career and spent time in Germany with the Royal Corps of Transport with a view to becoming a helicopter pilot and the possibility of sponsorship to Sandhurst.



John was appointed Head of Stuart House but during this time developed cancer. He was having debilitating chemotherapy but attended school as often as he was able. On leaving school, Headmaster Barry Sutton said he was an example to staff and pupils alike. His hopes of taking up a military career were now out of the



## Obituaries

question. When he was 21 he was given 6 weeks to live, but with the help of the Royal Marsden Hospital he got through it.

Initially he joined the family toy business but eventually moved into the tourism market. He studied Travel, Heritage, Archaeology and Business Studies at the University of Plymouth as a full-time mature student; attaining his degree with distinction, he was the top student on his course. He loved travel and over the years scuba-dived in the Maldives and the Caribbean, and spent time in Ghana.

In 2008 he became ill again and it was discovered the chemotherapy he had received in his youth had damaged his heart. He was airlifted to Haresfield Heart Hospital for surgery including a defibrillator and pacemaker and he was placed on the heart transplant register. Later the same year he became increasing unwell and it was discovered he had terminal cancer of the oesophagus as a result of his treatment earlier in his life. On May 10 2009 after a bravely born illness, John lost his fight and died.

John was always a very popular person who is greatly missed. As one of his university friends said 'he was a real diamond guy'

*Pat Hemingway*

### **Constantine Holland-Skinner OH 1940-1943**

Constantine Holland-Skinner was born on August 28 1924. He died on 12 June 2009, aged 84.

He joined the Cathedral School in the fourth form, initially as a boarder, when his father was appointed vicar of Garway.

During the Second World War, Con served with distinction in the Royal Tank Regiment in North Africa, Italy and Germany. After the war he trained as a teacher, but then joined the London County Council and later the Inner London Education Authority, undertaking youth work and running the Youth Employment Bureau at Hammersmith.

He had a passion for jazz music, the writers and music of the Beat Generation and comedies such as the Goon Show. Always interested in modern literature, and brother-in-law of Arthur C Clarke, he published essays on contemporary writers such as Jack Kerouac. In later years he was a Big Band music consultant for Norwich Radio.

Constantine was Master of Ceremonies at the High Anglican parish of St Peter's in Streatham for many years. In 1981 he took early retirement and moved to Norfolk with his wife, Madge. After her death he decided in 1992 to join the Catholic Church. He is

survived by his three sons, Peter, Christopher and Philip, and by his younger sister, Dorothy.

*Please see page 33 for an appreciation written by his school friend AC Smith.*

### **Patrick James Mooney OH 1990-1995**

Sadly, Patrick died suddenly, aged 33, as a result of a tragic accident in London on 23 July, 2010. He leaves his partner Emily Clark and daughter Matilda.

### **Richard Mark Peter OH 1987-1991**

The Club has received the sad news that Richard Peter died suddenly in Bristol on 2nd February, 2010 aged 33.

### **Peter Raymond Shepherd OH 1951-1959**

The Club has been informed of the death of Peter Shepherd in a road accident on 26 September 2010 in Florida, USA. He was aged 70.

His family were from Burnley, Lancashire and Peter entered HCS as a boarder joining his older brother in School House. Both Shepherd brothers were keen sportsmen. Peter gained his 1st XV Full Colours in 1958; he also led his House in the annual Senior Inter-House Rugby Cup competition of 1959, in which they beat their opponents Deanery 29 – 0. Peter was a member of the HCS Tennis VI in 1959 but also won the Woods Cup and the Cross Country VIII award during his final year. He won full 1st XI Cricket Colours three years in a row, eventually being awarded the captaincy in his last season at HCS.

A piece from the Sports section of the Herefordian, December 1959, records how Peter was an excellent all-rounder. The late John Brookes, Housemaster and 1st XI Coach wrote:

*"He has captained the side well, handling the bowling and field placings intelligently. As a batsman he has never really fulfilled his promise, despite several stylish innings. He has however developed into a hostile and accurate fast-medium bowler, able to move ball off the seam. His fielding and catching have always been good and safe"*

As well as becoming a House Monitor, then eventually a School Monitor, he joined the CCF and also took a keen interest in the many extra-curricular activities including becoming a committee member of the Jazz Appreciation Society. He took part in the Debating Society and was a member of the Chess Club and both the Photographic and Gramophone Societies.

On leaving school, Peter joined the Savoy Hotel in London and trained in hotel management.

**PFB**



## Obituaries

### **Ralph Philip Vinson "Tim" Rees O.B.E, K. St. J. OH 1950-1956**

Edited excerpts from the Service of Thanksgiving, Christ Church, Radyr, Wednesday, 4th August, 2010:

"Taking his accounting articles in the mid 1960s, Tim's passion for his work, combined with his immense ability took him to the very top of the accounting profession. He became the youngest ever Partner at Deloitte Haskins and Sells at the age of 26, rising to Senior Partner a few years later.

A true professional: incredibly knowledgeable, wise judgement, courageous and tough when needed. But more than anything, remembered by colleagues as a real people person, always finding a way to bring out the best in those around him, an inspiration and a pleasure to work for... He was awarded his OBE for his services to accountancy.

Although he retired from Coopers (as it became), Tim was never really one to sit still... Over the next ten years, with characteristic zeal, Tim threw himself into major undertakings such as being Pro Chancellor of Glamorgan University, Board member of the Welsh Development Agency, Vice Chairman of the Education Funding Council, High Sheriff of South Glamorgan, running the Finance Board of St Johns in Wales... and many, many more.

Whether you knew Tim as a loving husband or father, a shrewd accountant, a work colleague, or a neighbour at the rugby, what is clear is that he made a deep and indelible impression, and changed all of our lives for the better... We can all feel proud to have known him and we can rest assured that his legacy of professionalism, generosity and good living will live well beyond his years... and probably ours!

Tim Rees, a great man and a good man"  
*From Mark Miles (OH 1982-89)*

### **Alick Rowe OH 1950-1957**

Alick Rowe, OH and former HCS Master died at his apartment in Chiang Mai, Thailand on 30 October 2009.

At HCS Alick was a keen sportsman: he was awarded Full Rugby Colours for four years in a row, he was Captain of the 1st XV and he also belonged to the School Fives 1st IV team. In the CCF he gained the highest rank of Senior Under Officer and, before he left in 1957, was in full charge of the Corps.

Alick was involved in the Dramatic Society, acting in and producing plays. He was a founder member of The Somerset Society and Vice-President of the Debating

Society as well as being elected School Librarian and Editor of the Herefordian. He was made a House Monitor in 1954, then a School Monitor a year later, finally being appointed Head of House as well as Captain of School (Head Boy) between 1956 -1957.

Alick won a scholarship to St Catherine's College, Cambridge. After training as a teacher he returned to HCS as a Master in 1963 where he taught English as his main subject and also headed up the Drama department.

Alick was also an author and playwright. He became a prolific writer of short stories and produced or adapted many plays for radio and television, with a considerable number of his own radio plays broadcast by the BBC. Alick also wrote a book entitled 'Boy at the Commercial' which is a portrait of life at a pub in Hereford, where he lived for the first 16 years of his life.

### **Dr Barry T. Thom MB, MS, FRCPath OH 1943 - 1951**

Barry Thom died on Tuesday 2nd February 2010 in a hospice in Sussex, aged 76.

Born in Ebbw Vale in 1934, the oldest of three, his family later moved to Tredegar in the Welsh Valleys. Barry and younger brother Denis were both sent to the Cathedral School as boarders. Barry entered the Old Deanery House in 1943.

Whilst at school, Barry was a keen sportsman. He took part in most events, including boxing, rugby, athletics and rowing and was appointed Head of House after WWII. He won a few boxing titles and in rugby he played full-back, becoming Captain of the 1st XV. In athletics, he won the *victor ludorum* Cup for three years running between 1949 and 1951.

Perhaps his most important sporting achievement, however, was skippering the HCS 1st IV crew that won at Marlow Regatta in 1949. (In 2009 the School remembered this occasion by sending Barry and the rest of the crew engraved tankards celebrating the Sixtieth Anniversary of this win.) He returned to Hereford ten years later to challenge his former school to an anniversary race during the School Regatta of 1959; the same crew, which had been victorious at Marlow ten years earlier, comfortably demolished the School IV by four lengths.

Achieving good A Level results, Barry went on to read Medicine at London University and St Bartholomew's Hospital Medical College. After qualifying as Batchelor of Medicine and then later becoming Batchelor of Surgery, in 1965 Barry was awarded with distinction the Academic Postgraduate Diploma in Bacteriology by the



## Obituaries

London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine. He later trained as a pathologist and became a member of the Royal College of Pathologists. By now he had moved to Brighton with his family and joined the Royal Sussex County Hospital, where he worked up until his retirement. He was elected as a Fellow of the College, ending his career as a Director of Public Health Laboratory Services (PHLS) within the Brighton & Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust.

He was always a mild-mannered gentleman, well respected by fellow professionals, work colleagues and friends as well as former school contemporaries.

OHs were particularly pleased to welcome Barry to several recent lunchtime reunions in London which he enjoyed attending; he will be missed by his old school chums. The Old Herefordians in London made a collection in memory of Barry at their Annual Spring Luncheon in March 2010; they raised £60 for St. Barnabas Hospice in Worthing, Sussex, the Thom family's chosen charity.

### David A Tilley OH 1958-1967

The Club has received the sad news of the passing of David Tilley on Sunday 16 April 2010 at the age of 62. He died of thyroid cancer after a long illness.

He joined the school as a Cathedral Chorister in 1959 under the direction of Choirmaster Dr. Melville Cook, and was a boarder in Deanery House.

He leaves behind his wife Helen, their two children Michael and Caroline and four grandchildren.

***It is with regret that we report the death of a former Cathedral School teacher.***

### Peter Francis Skinner

*Peter Skinner, former HCS master, died 22 November 2009 in Kendal after a short illness. A memorial service was held in Hereford Cathedral.*



Born near Littleborough, Lancashire, 18 June 1933, Peter was the eldest child of Rev. Frank and Ellen Skinner. He was educated at Dalhousie School in Scotland, St John's Leatherhead in Surrey and Brasenose College, Oxford, where he studied Classics and notably rowed for his college.

Peter was appointed to his first teaching post at HCS to teach Latin, with some English, History, Geography and Scripture just before his twenty-fourth birthday and quickly proved to be an excellent, skilled and dedicated teacher. He had the magic combination of friendliness and authority. He became master in charge of School House in the early sixties replacing John Brookes who had recently married.

When he first came to Hereford, Peter not only had a thick mop of dark curly hair but also earned the nick name 'Flash' as he loved cars and motorbikes – which were admired by the pupils, especially the Harley Davison. Once on board he was gone in a 'Flash!' His motorbikes parked in the school yard always attracted admiring glances from his pupils and it is these wheels which delivered the necessary goods to the school tuck shop – the Buttery.

Peter was also a familiar figure on the banks of the Wye whizzing along on his bike, steering with one hand and shouting instructions to the rowers through a loud haler. In later years he would direct from his motor launch in his uniform of floppy hat and fleece!

Ex-pupils talk fondly of Peter, recounting how he taught junior Latin by translating Winnie the Pooh, how he made differences to their lives with his encouragement, kindness and good humour. Girls earned the name flower and the boys... were always Dear boy! There was never tom-foolery in Peter's lessons. He made lessons fun and everyone liked and respected him. He helped in many extra-curricular activities, collecting pupils in the minibus from canoe trips, D of E expeditions, ski trips or patrolling at the school disco. Peter also ran the Film Society.

The Cathedral and Three Choirs festival benefited from Peter's commitment where he was a bass in the voluntary choir. Without fuss and often at unsocial hours, he was the man (with his team) who was at the beck and call of the organising committee to move anything that needed moving or deal with any contingency or emergency and undertaking such jobs willingly, working behind the scenes and seeking no thanks. Even after leaving Hereford he returned to help with arrangements at Three Choirs Festival.

He was a man of action who loved the outdoors, but was also a very private individual. He was very well read, loved listening to classical music and had a wide general



## Obituaries

knowledge. Peter's eyes were affected after having German measles as a boy and consequently he suffered with poor eyesight. He even commented once, after a rugby match between the staff and school 1st XV, an annual event in the early days, that his good catch was due to him hearing the ball coming rather than seeing it!

When he retired in 1993, he left Hereford to live in Kendal and be nearer his family. Many wondered what he would do with himself and indeed what HCS would do without him! However, he zoomed off to his new future in style in his new BMW and continued to live life to the full. He was a keen walker and loved the Lake District. He enjoyed a great variety of activities; guide at Sizergh Castle, examiner for the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award, gardening at Holehird, where he was proudly in charge of compost and even made a brief television appearance whilst working there. He attended regularly at St George's Kendal and was involved with creating scenery and props for the pantomimes, still happy as ever to contribute behind the scenes as he did in numerous school plays.

He was also a driver for community transport and did boat patrol on Windermere – zooming about in a boat and advising lake users through his loud hailer! He had recently completed his Royal Yachting Association Safety Boat course. He was always busy and still always giving of his time.

He was a modest man, totally selfless, kind, practical and loyal.

### **Retired Headmaster, Barry Sutton adds:**

*"As a schoolmaster he was amongst the finest I have known: he never took on anything that he thought he could not do justice to and once he had agreed to assume a task I could forget about it, knowing that it would be well done and in the words of Drake's prayer 'thoroughly finished.' His reliability was outstanding and his stewardship faithful: he ran the Boat Club year in and year out, sometimes with help, too often without; his tuck shop and later Buttery management was legendary; although the facilities in School House when I came in 1975 were definitely below standard it was the house to be in, as was 3Y. [His form] was a relaxed, but well-ordered place and such was the relationship between Peter and his pupils that a telling off by him, however mild, was worse than any other in the School, because you felt that you had let him down.*

*I was privileged to have Peter as a member of staff: his requirements were always modest, he made few requests and no demands, but his service was huge."*

**Hereford Cathedral School is very grateful to Peter Skinner for leaving a legacy of £10,000 for the benefit of the school.**

## School News

### Exam Results

**Examination results for A level and GCSE have again been outstanding.**



At A level nearly half of all grades awarded were either 'A\*' or 'A' - with fifteen students gaining all 'A\*' or 'A' grades; three-quarters (73.7%) of all grades achieved were at least a 'B' grade or above. Impressively, 12.1% of all grades were at the new 'A\*' level. Michael Copley-May achieved four 'A\*' grades and India Benjamin, James Penney and Harrison Probert all gained more than one A\*.

Hereford Cathedral School's strong tradition in Art and Music was maintained, with both departments achieving 100% 'A\*'-'B' pass rates. A staggering 60% of all Art candidates achieved an 'A\*' grade. The school also excelled in the traditionally 'difficult' subjects of Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Science, Latin, Spanish and Philosophy & Ethics.



The AS results were also excellent with 65.5% of all grades achieved being either an 'A' or 'B' making this the second best set of AS results ever achieved. Thirteen students achieved straight 'A' grades.

The results at GCSE were equally impressive: 82.3% of all grades achieved were at least a 'B' grade or above and 56.7% of all grades achieved were either 'A\*' or 'A.' Out of 85 candidates, 96% achieved all 'A\*'-'C' grades, with 14 students gaining all 'A\*'-'A' grades and one third of candidates attained at least five or more 'A\*' grades.

Three students - Amalie Fisher, Emma Leeman and Beth Smith - achieved twelve 'A\*' grades, whilst Darcey Murphy and Michael Poolton achieved eleven 'A\*' grades.



## Musical News

### Flying with the Welsh National Opera

**Former senior chorister Rory Turnbull has found that leaving the cathedral choir does not come without its new opportunities when he was snatched by the Welsh National Opera to perform in their touring production of Mozart's Magic Flute.**

"All our boys leave the choir at the end of year nine, in order to concentrate on their GCSEs," said Geraint Bowen, director of music at Hereford Cathedral, "even if their voices have not changed. The WNO contacted us at the end of the summer term to see if we had any suitable boys and, as Rory was still singing magnificently, we thought he would relish the opportunity."

"Rory was fortunate to have been selected to be a member of one of the two teams of boys who sing the role of the 'Three Boys'. As part of the performance he and his colleagues get to fly across the stage on bicycle - surely every boy's dream, even if it is a little different to what he has been used to during Evensong!"

In his six years as a chorister, Rory has sung well over a thousand services, toured the USA with the choir three times, and performed in Her Majesty's Chapel Royal in front of TRH The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall, who also heard him singing a second time when TRH visited the cathedral in January 2009. Rory also took part in several Three Choirs Festivals and in 2009 sang the role of 'The Youth' in Mendelssohn's *Elijah* on the final night of the Hereford Three Choirs Festival, which also happened to coincide with his fourteenth birthday.



Photo: © Matt Grace

**Hannah Roper, aged 14, has been awarded the prestigious Philharmonia Orchestra/Martin Musical Scholarship Award for Under 25's.**

The award is made towards her studies with Rodney Friend, a world-class virtuoso, with whom Hannah has studied since October 2009. Other Martin Music scholars include noted violinists Jennifer Pike and Alina Ibragimova. This summer, Hannah attended a master-class in the French Alps for the finest musical students in the world, taught by the world's leading musicians.



**Two HCS students were recently awarded diplomas by Trinity College of Music in London.**

**Patrick Dunachie**, aged 15, has been awarded a Licentiate of Trinity College London Diploma; to achieve this the standard of a student's performance must be equivalent to the performance component on completion of a full-time undergraduate course at a conservatoire. Patrick hopes to continue his musical studies as a choral scholar at Oxbridge after studying for his A levels at HCS.

**Mary Wall**, aged 18, who sings Soprano, has been awarded an Associate of Trinity College London Diploma – equivalent to the performance component of the first year in a full-time undergraduate course at a conservatoire. In addition to her vocal studies, Mary is a violinist, viola player and pianist. Mary left school this summer to read medicine at Birmingham.

Other students to achieve success are **Briony Seden** (violin), **Rhian Evans** (viola), **Sian Evans** (double bass) and **Jacob Wooderson** (clarinet), who have been awarded places in the National Schools' Symphony Orchestra which attracts many of the country's top young musicians between the ages of 11 and 18. They joined the NSSO for a week-long masterclass at Millfield School this summer.



**'Cantabile', our new girls' choir, celebrated musical success by winning the prestigious Cheltenham Festival of Performing Arts.**

Following hot on the heels of their success at the Hereford Festival of Performing Arts where they won their class and overall choir prize, 'Cantabile' are now looking forward to competing at a national and international level.

The Cheltenham Festival showcased some of the finest choirs in the region and 'Cantabile' were praised by the adjudicators for their 'stunning beginnings,' 'excellent control' and 'scintillating final notes.'

**World Exclusive Reading at Hereford Cathedral School**

**The Poet Laureate, Carol Ann Duffy, visited HCS in June, to give a lecture and series of readings of her work, including a world exclusive reading of her unpublished new poem about England in the World Cup 2010.**

The famous poet enthralled the 200-strong audience during her presentation, discussing her works, inspirations and passion for poetry. The event, open to the whole Hereford community, was organised by 'Spectrum,' a student led Cathedral School group, founded by Xander Drury.



***Destinations 2010***

Robyn ADAMS	Swansea: English
Thomas ALLMAN	Keele: Medicine
Jared BARAZETTI-SCOTT	Sheffield: Economics/Politics
Mercedes BATEMAN	Post A Level
India BENJAMIN	Warwick: English Literature
James BOURDON-PIERRE	Post A Level
Annie BRACE	Manchester Met: French/Spanish
Hannah CARGILL	Edinburgh Napier: Nursing (Child health)
Cassian CHEESMAN	Post A Level
Molly CHURCHWARD	Post A Level
Hugo COHN	Leeds: Automotive Engineering
Michael COPLEY-MAY	Durham: Physics and Astronomy
James DAVIES	Post A Level
Niklas DEIWIKS	Leeds: Chemical Engineering
Ellenor FORD	Post A Level
Elliot GILFORD	Warwick: Management
Ursula HARRIS	Newcastle: Classics
Polly HAYDN JONES	Exeter: Philosophy/French
Jessica HICKEY	Sheffield: Economics
Rachel HITCHINER	Post A Level (Medicine)
William HORNE	Bath: Motor Sport Engineering
Felicity HUGHES	Manchester: Nursing (Adult)
Felicity HUNTER-CHOAT	Bristol: Chemistry
Camilla HUTTON	Aberystwyth: History/Politics
Matthew JONES	Modern Apprenticeship: Administration
Tomos JONES	Post A Level
Emily KEMP	Royal Holloway: Economics/Politics
Katie KENWARD-GIBBS	Post A Level
Emma LEWIS	Bath: Business Management
Archie MACLEOD	Post A Level (RAF)
Daisy MADDERS	Hereford College of Art: Foundation Course
Alexander McGHEE	Bristol: Veterinary Medicine
Sandie MIDDLETON	Cardiff: Music
Jade NEWMAN	UWIC: Sports Conditioning
Miranda OTTER-BARRY ROSS	York: English/Drama
Georgina PARRY	Harper Adams: Land Management
James PENNEY	Post A Level
Daniel PHILLIPS	Cardiff: Genetics
Emily PREECE	Warwick: Biochemistry
Jessica PREECE	Plymouth: Education Studies
Charlotte PRESTON	Goldsmiths: History of Art
David PRIOR	Post A Level
Georgina PUDEGE	Leicester: Medicine
Harrison PROBERT	Durham: Natural Sciences/Maths/Physics
James ROBERTS	St Andrews: Theology
Max ROBERTS	Post A Level
Grace RODERICK	Exeter: French/Spanish
Sam SAYCE	Post A Level
Olivia SMITH	Post A Level
Benedict SPRING	Post A Level
Chloe STANBRIDGE	Post A Level
Megan TAYLOR	Post A Level
William TENISON	Post A Level
Miranda TIMMERMAN	Bristol: Veterinary Medicine
Will TUCKER	Post A Level
Mary WALL	Birmingham: Medicine
Jonathan WARD-BARNETT	Durham: Chemistry
Hannah WARNER	Anglia Ruskin Optometry
James WILMOT	Post A Level
Sarah WOOLF	Nottingham: Geography



## Sport

### Rounders Success

**Hereford Cathedral School's Girls' Rounders celebrated sporting success by winning every county rounders tournament this year.**

Competing against schools from across Herefordshire & Worcestershire in numerous tournaments, the Cathedral School's Under 12s, Under 13s, U14s and U15s were victorious throughout, also winning the majority of their individual fixtures.

Lisa Ferneyhough, HCS Assistant Director of P.E. and Games said:

"Against an extremely competitive diary of fixtures, including schools from across Herefordshire and Worcestershire, our teams were fantastic and truly deserved their county championships."

### New style HCS

**OHs who still have connections with the school may have noticed a few eye-catching changes introduced recently.**

Firstly, the school uniform has been modernised: grey trousers and skirts have been replaced by a smart and business-like dark blue pinstripe, worn with white shirts and blouses. Secondly, the plain, blue cover of the school calendar has been redesigned and, finally, there is a new school logo incorporating the school crest.



1926

2008

2009

### County Cricket Hat-Trick

**Hereford Cathedral School's Boys' Cricket, recorded unprecedented cricketing success by winning the Under 12, Under 13 and Under 14 County Cups.**

HCS nearly completed the quadruple, narrowly missing out on the U15 trophy by losing the final.

Against tough opposition, all squads performed extremely well and recorded some memorable victories and individual performances throughout the season. 87 runs from Aaron Kemp, and bowling Fairfield out for 123, helped the U14 team secure the John Chadd Cup by a winning margin of 102 runs. Not to be outdone, the Under 13s, led by the bowling of Harry Children (5 wickets), bowled John Masefield out for 158, lifting the Richard Wydenbach Cup by 75 runs. Barney Morgan (5-29) guided the Under 12s to the Chadd Cup by a 40 run victory over John Kyrle School.

Richard Skyrme, HCS Director of Games said: "Teamwork and dedication have made this possible, the boys have been fantastic and I am glad their hard-work has been rewarded."



Cricket group captains with their trophies, from left to right, Asif Haider, Charlie Skyrme, Ben Butler, Will Ford



## Staff Changes

**Mr Chris Spencer retired at the end of summer term 2010 after twenty-two years as Head of Science and Head of Physics.**

Mr Spencer read Mechanical Sciences and Archaeology and Anthropology at Emmanuel College, Cambridge and he was a field archaeologist both in this country and abroad. Chris came to Hereford Cathedral School from John Kyrle High School. Throughout his time at the school, Mr Spencer was actively involved in the RAF section of CCF and worked closely with Mike Moffatt on outward-bound activities. Chris Spencer has been described as the school 'Pyrenean expert' and it was his expertise that led to many school trekking expeditions and Duke of Edinburgh trips in the area.

He is greatly respected by both staff and pupils: a true academic, Mr Spencer loves his subject and demonstrated real enthusiasm and interest for science. As both an academic as well as a jolly nice person, his presence in the Common Room as a source of advice and intellectual inspiration will be sorely missed. He has always been a very popular member of the teaching staff, being able to convey his love of learning to others and this was reflected in the spontaneous standing ovation the pupils gave Mr Spencer in the cathedral at the end of term - not easily forgotten by those lucky enough to be present.

We wish him, his wife Kate and all the Spencer family our very best wishes for his long and, very probably, exceedingly energetic retirement.



## Congratulations

We congratulate **Mrs Sam Price**, Deputy Head, who has left us to become Headmistress of The Godolphin School, Salisbury.

**Mr Andy Hamilton**, Head of Academic PE, has left to take up a post as Head of PE at the Crypt Grammar School, Gloucester.

**Ms Nicola Henderson**, teacher of art and textiles, has moved back to Scotland with her family to take up a new post.

See page 6 for an appreciation of **Mr Mike Moffatt**.

## New Appointments

**Mr Bruce Blyth** took up his appointment as Deputy Head in September. Mr Blyth was previously Head of Year 9 at Hampton School. He is, however, no stranger to Cathedral Schools, having been educated at King's College Choir School where he was Head Chorister participating in four international tours, thirteen recorded albums and singing the opening solo at The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols in 1984 live on Radio 4. Mr Blyth also brings a wealth of sporting experience; he played cricket for England Universities and squash for Manchester University.



**Mrs Melanie Cuthbert** is the new Head of Academic Music.

**Miss Anna Jasaneciska** joins us to teach Art and replaces Ms Henderson.

**Dr Chris Jones**, formerly at the Sixth Form College, joined the Physics Department following the retirement of Mr Spencer.

**Mr Daniel Protherough** will coach rugby, cricket and other games.

**Capt. Graeme Smith**, of the Royal Signals, has been appointed as the new CCF SSI.

### Other Staff Changes:

**Mrs Burdett** becomes Head of Science, **Dr Rhodes** Head of Physics and **Miss Sage** will take over the reins from Mrs De Souza for the next two years as Head of Department. Do not fear, however, Mrs De Souza is not leaving us!



## Club News

### New Archive Display

**One of the school's most historic buildings, No 1 Castle Street, is to house a new archive and artefact display.**

A principle ground floor room, formerly the Headmaster's Study and subsequently the Monitors' Room, is being revamped as an OH Archive and History Room.

The school and OH Club possess an extensive archive which is not accessible to visitors. However, the new archive room will allow interesting items of the school's history to be carefully displayed and viewed by OHs, pupils and parents. It will also serve as a reception room for OHs when visiting HCS or the Development Office.

The Archive Room is to be formally launched at the OH Day on 4 December 2010, when there will be displays of archive materials, pictures, trophies and uniforms past and present.

For further information please contact Claire Morgan-Jones, Development Director on 07725 224651/ [cmjones@hcsch.org](mailto:cmjones@hcsch.org) or Helen Pearson on 01432 363566/ [development@hcsch.org](mailto:development@hcsch.org).



No. 1 Castle Street in 1955

## OH EVENTS 2011



**OH Annual London Dinner**  
**Thursday 12 May, 6.30pm for 7pm**  
**The East India Club, St James's, SW1**  
**(3 course meal + wine, coffee & mints)**

### School cap comes back

**Mr Anthony Williams of London has kindly donated his father's velvet cap from the 1920s:**

"I recently came across the enclosed cap which I thought you might appreciate having as an artefact of the school's history. I am assuming that H C S R F C stands for Hereford Cathedral School Rugby Football Club." writes Mr Williams.

His father was Giles Phillips Williams, from Penygraig in South Wales, who was a boarder from 1924 to 1929. One of the masters at the time was Charles Scott; his brother Edgar Scott worked for Lloyd's Bank, which was founded in Birmingham, and Giles Williams worked for the bank for his entire career, always in the Midlands. Edgar Scott later became Anthony Williams's godfather.

"My father's interest in rugby continued throughout his life. When injury forced him to stop playing he became a referee and later ran the Territorial Army rugby team. He served as a Major in the Territorial Army after the Second World War (during the war he served with the Royal Welsh Fusiliers), for which he was awarded an OBE in 1960. He died in 1988."



## OH Regatta 2011

**Sunday 12 June**

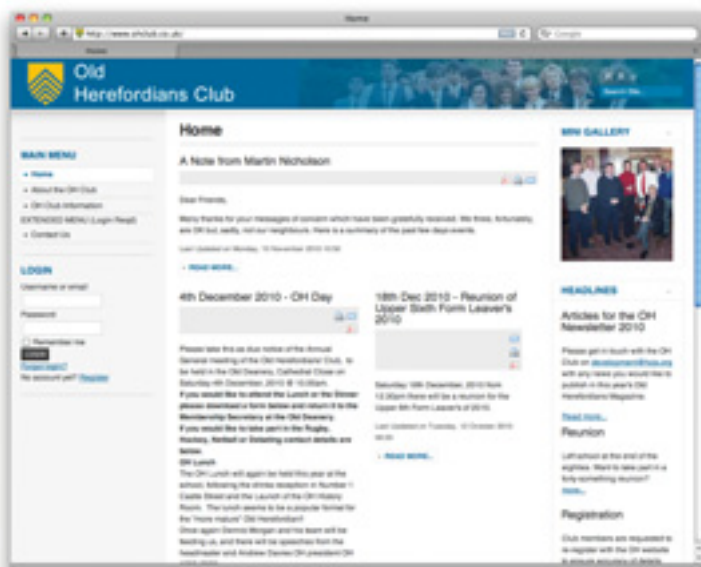
**Hereford Rowing Club**

*Pre OH Regatta Lunch for rowers and spectators*  
**School Dining Hall - 11.45am**



For further details or to book your place for these events, please contact the OH Club (Helen Pearson): Tel 01432 363 566; email [development@hcsch.org](mailto:development@hcsch.org).





## OH Day Programme Saturday 4 December 2010

**Please take this as due notice of the Annual General Meeting of the Old Herefordians' Club. To be held in the Zimmerman Building Church Street on Saturday 5th December, 2009.**

- 10.00 Coffee in Old Deanery
- 10.00 Hockey (mixed) - Hereford Leisure Centre
- 10.30 AGM in Briscoe Room, Old Deanery
- 11.30 Netball HCS Sports' Hall
- 11.45 Drinks in No 1 Castle Street and Launch of the new History & Archive Room
- 12.15 Lunch £13.50 each
- 12.30 Welcome & Speech by Andrew Davies, OH President
- 1.40 Speech by Paul Smith, Headmaster
- 2.00 Music Concert by HCS Musicians in St John's Church, St Owen Street
- 2.30 OH Rugby - Wyeseide
- 2.45 Debate (No 1 Castle Street): OHs v School
- 5.30 Evensong TBC
- 7.30 Informal dinner at Castle House Hotel at 7.30pm £30.00 per head. All welcome.

Contact numbers if you would like to take part in the above events or for general information please contact Helen Pearson on 01432 363 566 or [development@hcjs.co.uk](mailto:development@hcjs.co.uk)

**Rugby:** Richard Skyrme 01432 363 561 or [RPSkyr@hcsch.org](mailto:RPSkyr@hcsch.org).

**Hockey & Netball:** Lisa Ferneyhough 01432 363 561 or [LAFern@hcsch.org](mailto:LAFern@hcsch.org).

**Debating:** Chris Morgan 07811 261 312 or [cwjmorgan@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:cwjmorgan@tiscali.co.uk).

## Editorial

Each year when the time approaches to edit the Old Herefordians' Newsletter, I become slightly anxious – will there be sufficient news? However, my worries are invariably short-lived: it seems there is always OH news and I am constantly surprised by the noteworthy and diverse experiences of so many Old Herefordians both at home and abroad. I would like to thank those OHs who have contributed either news or articles or taken the trouble to write in with suggestions – every one is appreciated.

**Clare Adamson**  
Editor

e: [development@hcjs.co.uk](mailto:development@hcjs.co.uk)

Please note that any opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily the views of the Editor or the OH Committee.

## OH Enquiries

**The Development Office has moved.**

If you require information about the OH Club, please contact Alumni Officer Helen Pearson at the new address below. Please note that the telephone number and email address remain the same.



**Development Office**  
**Hereford Cathedral School**  
**Old Deanery**  
**Cathedral Close**  
**Hereford**  
**HR1 2NG**  
**Tel: 01432 363566**  
**Email: [development@hcjs.org](mailto:development@hcjs.org)**  
**[www.ohclub.co.uk](http://www.ohclub.co.uk)**

President: **Andrew Davies**  
Vice President: **Juliette Austen Chandler**  
Vice President: **Jon Webb**  
Secretary: **Mark Ellis**  
OH Trust: **Peter Williams**  
Alumni Officer: **Helen Pearson**  
OH Editor: **Clare Adamson**



Design & Layout:  
[www.fu5ed.com](http://www.fu5ed.com)



Printed by:  
Tel. 01485 750033  
[www.mwl.co.uk](http://www.mwl.co.uk)

The OH Newsletter is  
printed using  
vegetable-based inks  
on recycled paper.

