

Oh What a Night: OH Ball 2023

TANZANIA: A CONSERVATION JOURNEY

SINGING IN THE REIGN: A CAREER IN MUSIC

SPORTS DAY SPECIAL

REUNIONS & MORE

HEREFORD CATHEDRAL SCHOOL

OH MAGAZINE 2023



PRESIDENT'S WELCOME





Hello and welcome to the 2023 OH Magazine. And, firstly, I hope you are well. Your OH Committee and OH CIO Trust are well; in fact, 'they are very good' is probably a better thing to say. They are busy with plans, meeting every couple of months and mapping ways to keep OHs in touch or helping those who could do with a hand.

There's been quite a lot on the plate so far this year, and there will be more going forward. We had the fab Summer Ball in June, we moved the OH Sports Day to October for the first time, there's a new website and database project upcoming, the upgrade to the OH Room in No 1 as part of the new Ege Parker Suite, the AGM/OH Lunch at the School in December, as well as all the social and sporting reunions in Hereford, London, Bristol and beyond.

The OH Club is mainly about helping those in our 3,500+ membership keep together – if they want to, of course. That's why the people who paid your school fees contributed towards the OH Club for you, in case you want to keep in touch.

There's one other thing that I have come to realise in this role and that is that the Club is very committed to supporting the School. Challenges may lie ahead for families wishing to provide their children with an education at HCS. In the spirit of kindness, let's hope our Club can do what we can to help.

Photos: Front cover image and Richard Binnersley (above left) © Isla Hampson

If you are interested in all or some of the above, you can read all about it in this magazine. But none of it happens without people putting in the effort, so thanks to all the members of the Committee, to Claire Morgan-Jones and Helen Pearson in the school office, and to Julie North for her beautiful editing of the magazine.

And, lastly, I hope to see you somewhere soon.

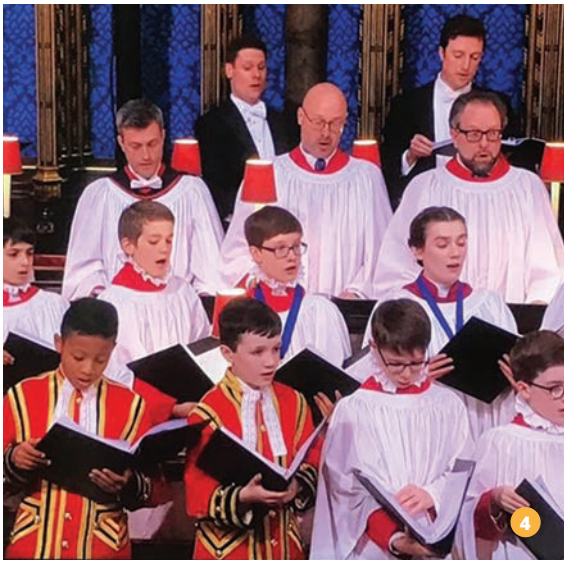
Richard Binnersley
President, Old Herefordians' Club

"The OH Club is mainly about helping those in our membership keep together"

Photo (above right): It's a warm welcome to the OH Club for the HCS Leavers of 2023! In July, the Year 13 group gathered in the Powell Theatre, where each one was presented with Howard Tomlinson's A History Over 800 Years, *a Leavers' Handbook and either a tie or lapel pin.*

All were treated to a superb (and moving) film of each student talking about their favourite moments at the school, and speeches were made to welcome them into the OH. Best wishes to everyone for their next steps: support each other, and don't leave it too long to keep in touch with the school and the OH Club.

CONTENTS



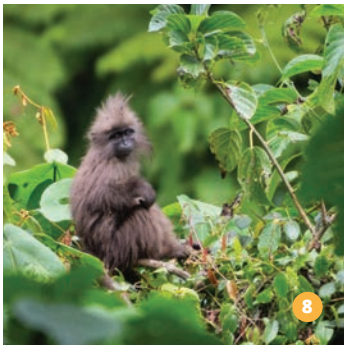


4 Singing in the Reign Robert Macdonald recounts a varied choral career. **6 OH News** Reporting on OH activity around the world. **7 School News** Updates on new developments. **8 Tanzania: A Conservation Journey** Claire Bracebridge describes her life and work at the interface between wildlife and people. **12 OH Sports Day 2023** A celebration of energy and teamwork. **16 Letters** OHs old and new share their memories and reflections on the impact of HCS. **20 Adventures in Surgery** Mat Smith on his elective year in New Zealand. **22 Common Room Shuffle** Staff moves in the past year. **24 Reunions** Joyful gatherings with friends from HCS past and present. **28 OH Day 2022 & Golf Day 2023** A recap of the games at these annual events. **29 Matches & Hatches** A batch of new additions to the OH community. **32 Oh What a Night: The OH Ball** A photographic journal of a tremendous night out. **38 Obituaries** Tributes to OHs loved and lost. **46 Diary Dates 2023–24** Celebrations to look forward to. **46 Good News** Recent achievements by OHs.



This issue's highlights











SINGING IN THE REIGN

ROBERT MACDONALD



Robert Macdonald (OH 1988) is currently a Lay Vicar at Westminster Abbey and is also a member of leading choral ensembles The Tallis Scholars, The Sixteen and The Cardinall's Musick. He recounts for us his varied career...

Having started out as a Chorister at Hereford Cathedral in the late 1970s (1978–84), chiefly as an end in itself and secondarily as a means to a good education with the benefit of a generous scholarship, I got the bug for choral music and it has never left me.

After my voice eventually changed (looking back, I may have been subconsciously prolonging my Treble career through some physiological chicanery), I almost immediately joined the HCS Chamber Choir, the Hereford Choral Society (through which I participated in the Three Choirs Festival), and then, for my last two years at the school, the Cathedral Choir once more, this time as a Choral Scholar.

In those days, singing was an educational gift that kept on giving, and I was able to use the skills which I had acquired and had been carefully nurtured in me by those at HCS whose responsibility it was to encourage the appreciation and performance of music to a high level, to gain an Academical Clerkship (another choral scholarship to you and me) to Oxford University, where I sang in the Cathedral Choir at Christ Church. The friendships I made there were crucial in the career I subsequently followed as a consort singer specialising in the field of early music, through which I have been incredibly fortunate to have travelled widely with many of the ensembles for which our country is renowned.

> "Singing was an educational gift that kept on giving"

But running alongside that, the Church has also been a constant, and I have always held a post at some choral foundation or other. For the last two decades and more that foundation has been Westminster Abbey, which I joined having sung just down the road at the Roman Catholic Cathedral for the previous six years. When my boss there was poached by our Anglican neighbour, I eventually followed him, not lured by the prestige of the place or the opportunity to sing at Royal and State occasions, but by the same attraction to make beautiful music in a beautiful sacred space that had drawn me to Hereford all those years before.

That said, those opportunities have come around over the years, so I have been lucky enough to have sung at the marriage of our future King, the funeral of the late Queen and the Coronation of her son earlier this year, among many other important national events. Whatever one's views concerning the place of monarchy in a contemporary society, I have found it impossible not to be moved by the visceral power of these ceremonies. Of course, I have a vested interest, being employed by 'The Firm' (albeit indirectly), but I would challenge anybody physically present at one of these ancient rites to deny the thrill of seeing British history played out right in front of oneself.



An undeniable aspect of all this is the importance of high quality choral music to the pageantry and rich cultural life of our nation, which is arguably still the envy of the world, and which should never be taken for granted or neglected if future generations of young boys and girls are to enjoy the privileges and opportunities I have been so extraordinarily blessed to have received, and which all started, aged nine, with an audition one winter's night in late 1977 in the warm study of 14, College Cloister at Hereford Cathedral for Roy Massey, then the Organist and Master of the Choristers. To him and to all my subsequent Directors of Music, I am excessively indebted.

"I challenge anybody to deny the thrill of seeing British history played out right in front of oneself"

I have pursued an odd career, one which seems now to be under threat to an extent, and one which I would be sorry to see denied to those just starting out on a similar path, full as it is with joy and no small amount of adventure. And I owe it all to the chances presented to me at HCS. So thank you Hereford, and keep up the fantastic work you are doing!

Robert Macdonald
OH 1978–88





Photos: *(top) The Choir at King Charles' Coronation*
(inset) Rob preparing to sing at the Coronation
(right top and bottom) Rob on television, singing in the Coronation Choir

OH NEWS

ALAN'S ANGELS



Alan Blake (OH 1947) was nominated for Senior Citizen of the Year for his charity fundraising at the 2022 Sunshine Radio awards at Hereford Racecourse. Unable to attend in person, daughters Maria and Louise and friends Tracey Jones and Chris Williams (now known as Alan's Angels) escorted his wife Val to the ceremony. Alan has raised £25,000 and walked 96,000 steps to raise money for Parkinsons, City of Hereford Rotary Club and Burghill Church.

AFTER ELIZABETH

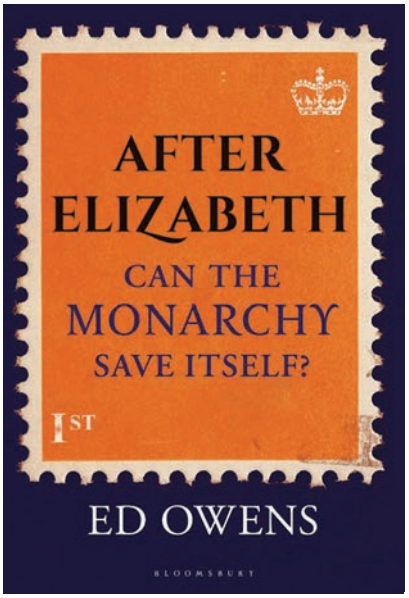


Dr Ed Owens was guest speaker at this year's Speech Day and described some of his experiences as a historian and media commentator on recent and past royal events. He was also pleased to return to HCS in order to thank all of those teachers – some of whom are still in post! – who helped him so much when he was a pupil at the school (OH 1999–2006).

He has a new book out, published by Bloomsbury: *After Elizabeth: Can the Monarchy Save Itself? (pictured above).*

The British monarchy has been through turbulent times of late. Rocked by scandal and strife and without, it seems, a clear plan for the future following the death of Queen Elizabeth II, we have been left wondering: what happens next?

Nothing seems certain. Will the monarchy survive with its continuing echoes of an Imperial past? Will young people – disenchanted with the political status quo – find the



ritual and practice of the monarchy quite so mesmerising as previous generations have done? What might a republican Britain look like?

Ed argues that the monarchy must embrace reform and transform itself radically. No more private jets while preaching about the importance of the environment; no more secrecy obscuring royal influence in high places; no more hangers-on enjoying grace-and-favour homes. A major slimming down is essential. And it's time the family archives were opened.

All these issues will have a direct effect on the common good of the nation as the monarchy tries to reinvent itself as a modern working democracy, and endeavours to equip itself for the coming decades. Ed situates this critical moment of royal transition in its historical context in order to set out a vision for monarchy that is future-proof, but which would also see the crown play an integral role in the evolution of 21st-century Britain.

OH ANTIPODES

The antipodean branch of Old Herefordians is going strong. Pictured here (right, bottom) is Richard Hartley (OH 1965) with Keith Binns (School House 1959–66) and his wife Diane, having dinner in Fremantle in April 2023.

FROM SCIENCE TO SANDHURST



Lily Matheson (OH 2019) graduated from the University of Manchester with a Bachelor's degree of Science with Honours. She's now taking a year out to travel and then will start Sandhurst officer training next September.

MARTIN'S 85TH



Martin Nicholson's 85th birthday was celebrated at Sunset Café, Ko Yo. Pictured are (left) Tony Tugwell (OH 1976) and (right) Richard Hartley (OH 1965) with Martin in the middle.

RANDY'S BEM



Randy Langford (OH 1943) was one of King Charles' first birthday Honours List recipients when he received a British Empire Medal for his 30 years' volunteering efforts at Hereford's St Michael's Hospice.

The medal was presented to him by the Lord-Lieutenant of Herefordshire, Edward Harley CBE, during a ceremony at St Michael's in Bartestree.



Randy is pictured above enjoying King Charles' Coronation celebrations with the Head of the Junior School Helen Hoffman – Randy was a pupil at the school at the time of George VI's coronation in May 1937.

SCHOOL NEWS

AN ARCHIVE FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

As you would expect, an ancient school like HCS has a great many photographs, trophies and much printed material. Over the last 10 years the OH Club has been working with the Development Office to ensure that these interesting historic items are kept safely in various archives around the school site, are displayed for pupils and alumni to enjoy and are also kept in good condition for the generations to come.

To this end, one major piece of work has been the digitalisation of photographs and all the printed magazines produced by the School and Alumni club over the last 170 years so that it may be accessed at any time, from anywhere.

The digital archive has been well received and used by staff, pupils and alumni to work on projects relating to WW1, the Coronation and various school events. Additionally, it has been used by other organisations such as the RFU and Fives Association to help with their research.

The OH Club has now moved the digital archive to a new level, upgrading the software system to make searching easier and this year beginning work to collect, collate and archive social media output from the School and OH Club, as this is fast becoming the historical archive of the future.

We now have plans to develop a termly newsletter for alumni, available by email. If you would like to receive this please send your name and school years to **Claire Morgan-Jones** at **c.morganjones@herefordcs.com** or **Helen Pearson** at **development@herefordcs.com**.

THE HCS DIPLOMA

One of Dr Gray's introductions is the HCS Diploma. Accredited by the University of Buckingham, it's a non-examined sixth form enrichment programme comprising academic research projects and practical skills, and has proved very popular. Pupils learn everything from interview techniques and how to have a difficult conversation to how to change a car tyre and basic plumbing, though not at same time (successful participants are awarded their own radiator key).

The Diploma is designed to develop character and skills in and out of the classroom, helping our students become fulfilled and valued citizens.

THE POWER OF NETWORKING

On many occasions Helen and Claire meet OHs and hear them say: "You know, it was funny thing but I was in an airport lounge in X and saw someone wearing an OH tie," or: "Well, I never knew that Y who works for the same company as me is an OH."

In recent years we have taken more time to explain the benefits of that network to the older HCS pupils and to get them to understand the power of being able to speak to someone who has studied the course they are interested in, or worked in the company they aspire to work in, who could offer advice or work experience or has taken the gap year they are planning, and as a result they are increasingly asking us to be put in touch with OHs who are willing to help.

We have built up our database of OH careers. If you would be prepared to offer career advice to young OHs by email or on the phone, please contact **Claire Morgan-Jones** at **c.morganjones@herefordcs.com** or **Helen Pearson** at **development@herefordcs.com**.



EGE PARKER SUITE

OH President Richard Binnersley and Headmaster Dr Michael Gray would like to extend their thanks to those OHs who responded generously to their letter this summer regarding the No 1 project. The result has been most encouraging and the school has achieved its target sum to refurbish the front rooms of No 1 Castle Street, which will then be named the Ege Parker Suite. See next year's magazine for a full report on the finished works.

OHS IN THE WILD

Lesser spotted former HCS Headteacher Paul Smith is found in the bookshops of Hay when he is not chairing Hereford Mammal Group or being an active member of Herefordshire Wildlife Trust and RSPB. Life in retirement is obviously suiting him (pictured below).

OLD BLADES

This year the OH Club took a pitch at Old Blades and hosted parents, OHs and current HCS crew under a gazebo on a day that was mercifully a little cooler than most we had experienced in June.

It was great to see younger OHs, many of whom are still involved in rowing at university and beyond, with some now coaching the next generation. All in all a lovely day that will become an annual fixture.

Photo (top, left to right): Will Owens (OH 2019), George Fraser (OH 2019), and Simon Williamson (OH 2012).





TANZANIA

A CONSERVATION JOURNEY



Claire Bracebridge (OH 1993) has been working in wildlife conservation in Tanzania since 2002. She tells us something of her experiences monitoring the interface between nature and people...

This summer I returned to visit HCS for the 30 year leavers' reunion. Could it really have been that long? It certainly doesn't feel like it. But it started me reflecting on where the choices I made around my career have led me. Currently I live in Tanzania and have done since 2002, when I applied in response to an advert in the newspaper (yes, that paper thing) looking for research assistants for baseline biodiversity surveys in forests. I just knew the job was mine!

I'd always loved wildlife, and at school I was torn between becoming a marine biologist (I got my scuba diving qualification at 17) or a primatologist. The great apes won, and after a degree in Psychology and Zoology at Bristol and a Masters in Human Evolution and Behaviour at UCL, I was given field work opportunities in 2000–01 in Nigeria, Borneo and Thailand, all focused around primates.

Firstly, I confirmed what I knew but hadn't tried. I *loved* field work, being in remote forests, surrounded by wildlife, camping, living simply and the physical challenges that came with all of that. However, I wasn't really interested in academia or a PhD, and after a couple of years, I felt I wanted to experience a range of field work opportunities, to see what else was out there, as long as it was in the middle of nowhere! And I wanted my research and monitoring work to inform decisions in conservation management. So I packed my rucksack and boarded a plane to Tanzania.

This is a very special and biodiverse East African country, most famous for its iconic snow-capped Mount Kilimanjaro, Serengeti wildebeest migration and Zanzibari beaches. It is less known for having some of the most important elephant, lion and vulture populations remaining in Africa, let alone for a monkey new to science in 2005, found only in the southern Tanzanian forests.

PART 1: BIODIVERSITY MONITORING ROAMING THE MOUNTAIN FORESTS (2002–06)

This work took me to many remote forest reserves during five years – living in a tent, exploring new areas and cataloguing the species present. We worked in a Tanzanian–European team, made lasting friendships, and got great calf muscles. Here's an excerpt of my first impressions in March 2002, after three months in the job:

To get to the forest we travelled on long, dusty red roads, rutted and potholed, with mud brick huts lining the roadside. This morphed into long expanses of green as far as the eye can see. I have lived for the past 10 weeks in my little tent home, eating a staple of rice & beans (with liberal splashings of chili sauce), washing in our tarpaulin makeshift bucket 'shower' using river water



and stomping into the forest to do daily work – into the 'office'... a hard life, indeed.

Here there are big skies at night, flickering fireflies, the sounds of bushbabies' alarm calls and their glowing red headlamp eyes in the torch light, and the ponderous movements of a chameleon as it swivels its eyes around to get a look at you.

The monitoring work itself involves doing a survey of the forest, using lots of different methods, including bucket pitfall and Sherman traps, vegetation plots and line transects to record human disturbance. These forests are part of the ancient Eastern Arc Mountains, where little has been done to catalogue unique and rare species. Our routine revolves around the 10-day trap site for the zoological work. The culmination of this is 'bucket day', when we take all the equipment back to camp for the next site and, most importantly, have a party – drinking the local spirit 'Konyagi' and dancing into the night.

While there was plenty of fun time, from a scientific viewpoint the data contributed to recognising the importance of these forests and upgrading some to nature reserves where no logging was allowed. An extremely rewarding time, and Tanzania was well and truly under my skin.

PART 2: KIPUNJI THE PUNK MONKEY (2007–11)

That was the first five years. After that, I did eventually decide to do a PhD, because I couldn't say no to the opportunity to study in-depth the kipunji monkey (*Rungwecebus kipunji*), totally new to science in 2005, endemic to Tanzania and highly threatened with extinction. Thanks to the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), an international conservation NGO, for this honour. It was a complete joy to get another two and a half years to roam around the forests, albeit in a different part of Tanzania at the southern end of the western rift valley. When I go back and visit, I sense myself coming home. Here's an excerpt from my diary at the time:

I love being in the forest. Seeing majestic old trees that are dripping with ferns, orchids and lichens; frogs living high up in a small pool created by spreading branches; a tree hyrax making use of holes in the trunk to sleep in the daytime; hornbills, in the ultimate trust of a couple, sealing the female in a tree on their nest with only a beak-sized hole to provision her until the fledglings are ready to leave home, weeks later. Ecosystems within ecosystems.

> "The data contributed to recognising the importance of these forests and upgrading some to nature reserves"

The joy of seeing kipunji, our kin, as they live their lives in a world of leaves, fruit and branches. I get up at 05:30 to walk through the forest to find my habituated group where I left them the evening before. They sleep at night huddled together and as the sun touches the tops of the trees, they move skyward and sit basking in the warming rays. Their thick brown hair and punky crest on the head are tinged with a glow.

I, on the other hand, wait at the bottom in the cool shade of the forest, hopping from foot to foot, feeling grumpy about my lack of arboreal skills. I record their activity after every five minutes: who is resting, travelling, grooming and eating – which plant and which part of the plant. I see Statila, aka 'Banana boy' – the dominant adult male who first allowed us to observe him from just 5m away while he was munching wild bananas and loud calling with his mouth full. Today he is sauntering on the ground to eat some soft, fresh herbaceous plants, and I sit near him and savour this precious moment of acceptance.

Sadly, Statila was killed by dogs while crop raiding maize on the forest edge. We were gutted, and as a consequence worked with farmers to develop some cheap and easy mitigation methods to reduce crop raiding incidents – cow poo and chilli mix smeared on the maize worked well!

PART 3: VULTURES NATURE'S CLEAN-UP CREW (2013–23)

After I finished my PhD, I worked with WCS for another seven years, doing various ecological monitoring activities. In 2013, we started a vulture project, together with North Carolina Zoo, as there was no detailed information on vultures in Tanzania.

> "Working with communities to make their own choices is the only sustainable solution"

Vultures are an oft-maligned, misunderstood species, getting a poor rap in *The Lion King* and *The Jungle Book* because they are scavengers. Yet these iconic symbols of the African savannah are nature's clean-up crew, providing critical ecosystem services of waste disposal and nutrient cycling. In Africa, vulture numbers have plummeted in the past 30 years, pushing these birds to the brink of extinction. Analysis of our yearly road surveys in three key national parks confirmed Tanzania is a stronghold for vultures in Africa, but after five years of monitoring, we started to see declines in 2018. Mortalities from the vultures we have fitted with satellite tags are telling us the same story, one of unfolding tragedy.

The declines in Tanzania are because of poisoning using pesticides. The impact of this can be huge, killing hundreds of vultures at a time. I have attended these incidents and they are devastating, both personally and for the future of vultures. Vultures are not always the intended victim; often they are collateral damage from forms of predator control by pastoralists, who graze livestock around the edges of parks where carnivores also live. This challenge is increasing over time.

More recently, we have seen an increasing trend in the removal of vulture heads for traditional use. Vultures' good eyesight is believed to represent prescient abilities and can help with a person's future success. Poachers also deliberately kill vultures to avoid detection by rangers using circling vultures overhead. To try to address this, we have been doing poison response training with rangers, who are the 'boots on the ground' to the vultures 'eyes in the sky' – and are often the first responders to a poisoning event. In my diary I wrote:

It is always rewarding to see how the rangers' appreciation and fascination grows as they learn about vultures. They cannot believe that a vulture will only lay one egg every one to two years (not a dozen like a chicken), or that it takes two parents six months of hard work to fledge a chick, or that an adult could live to 30 years if it can avoid being poisoned. As we talk about white-backed vultures' social feeding habits leading to large numbers of deaths at a poisoning site, the gravity of the situation is written on everyone's faces, coupled with head shaking and tutting. The rangers are keen to know how they can deal with a poisoning event, and I am only too happy to stop talking and let the practical sessions begin.

Addressing the threats vultures face is extremely challenging, as there are multiple motivations around use of poisoning and many different players to engage and problems to solve to really make any positive progress. And yet working with communities to make their own choices to change their behaviour is the only long-term sustainable solution.

And so, this is conservation, life on the hard edge – working at the interface between wildlife and people, and trying to find a way to coexist together. It is often disheartening and frustrating, and can feel hopeless. Could I have chosen something easier? For sure. Do I regret the path I have taken? Never. I simply chose to do something I cared about, taking me from a primatologist of the forests to a champion of vultures in the savannah. It's been quite the adventure so far!

Claire Bracebridge

OH 1993

Photos: *Previous pages (left) African sunrise; (inset left) Observing kipunji © Natalie Ingle; (right and inset right) Tagged white-backed vulture release © Jessica Manzak.*

Facing page (clockwise from top left) Craggy peak; White-backed vulture with satellite unit © Corinne Kendall; Juvenile kipunji monkey; Statila calling in the wild banana, first close encounter; Rungwe, trying to dry clothes at camp; Nkuka camp; Rungwe; White-backed vultures feeding; (centre) Juvenile kipunji © Natalie Ingle.


















HOCKEY



















OH SPORTS DAY 2023

SATURDAY 21ST OCTOBER

A HIGH-CLASS DAY OF SPORTING ACTION

The OH Sports Day was held for the first time in October in 2023 and was a high-class day of sporting action. Moved from the traditional December date, mainly because the weather would force it to be cancelled, the new date suggested by HCS Sports Department proved to be a great success. Plenty of OHs turned up to play and watch, which was fabulous.

We relocated the matches to Hereford City Sports Club and Leisure Centre, to play hockey, football, netball and rugby. The School picked up all four cups and all the players should be proud of the exciting spectacles they provided. Well done to all who played, watched and helped put it on! Enjoy the pictures and we will keep you posted of plans for next year.

Richard Binnersley

"All the players should be proud of the exciting spectacles they provided"

OH HOCKEY

OH Hockey was once again eagerly anticipated, but with several OHs away playing hockey was always going to be a challenge against a strong HCS school team.

The OH team started strong with lots of possession but after venturing further forward they were caught on the break, with Ava C finishing off a nice move for the school team. They scored a 2nd when Manuela H smashed the ball into the corner with the OH defence not able to get close. So 2–0 at half time and the OH needed to regroup.

They got on the score sheet when Bronte Giddens linked up with Adam Hewlett to slide the ball past the oncoming goalkeeper. The comeback didn't last long, however, when the school team built lots of pressure and eventually Scarlet M slotted the ball home from a well worked short corner.

A good day and lots of hard work and effort, but the school team held on for victory 3–1.

Andy Rogers
Assistant Director of Sport & Head of Hockey











RUGBY









OH FOOTBALL

It was a great OH encounter for us at the football this year. The rain held off, so conditions were perfect for a game of football. A competitive, evenly matched, end to end game with even Mr Milsom and Mr Tong making an appearance for the OH team!

Both teams started well with HCS having some good possession early on. However, OH grew into the game, piling on the pressure that soon led to the first goal, a lovely headed finish from Rhodri Jones – HCS 0–1 OH.

HCS then started to play some nice football, playing out from the back with some lovely distribution from Lewis Tsang in goal. This helped HCS get a foothold on the game and soon led to the equaliser, a superb 25 yard strike from captain Sam Phillips – HCS 1–1 OH.

With 10 minutes to go before half-time the OH team started to show their experience. Mr Milsom was linking up play nicely that led to a scramble in the box and was nicely tucked away for their second goal of the game – HCS 1–2 OH (half-time).

> "A brilliant game played in great spirit and sportmanship. Well done!"

With the second half underway and some fresh legs on for the HCS team, our youth and energy started to show. The pressure was mounting, which led to a number of corners for the HCS team. Up stepped the injured Charles Crew, who took a lovely corner that went straight into the back of the net! HCS 2–2 OH.

Mr Tong then made an appearance that gave OH a boost and helped them get back into the game with some nice possession. However, against the run of play HCS had another corner that led to a powerful headed goal from Sam Goodwin – HCS 3–2 OH.

Heading into the final stages of the game, HCS made a strong tackle in the middle of the pitch that led to a counterattack; a high press from Sam Goodwin led to the OH goalkeeper making a mistake that left an easy finish for Goodwin, who scored the final goal of the game – HCS 4–2 OH.

A brilliant game of football played in great spirit and sportsmanship. Well done to all involved!

Joel Edwards

Head of Football

Hockey, football and rugby photos © Isla Hampson

Netball group photo on page 13 © HCS



FOOTBALL

































LETTERS

EXCERPTS FROM A LETTER FROM PETER FAIRMAN-BOURN (OH 1959)

Fascinating to see the picture of your white kit bag in such good condition after all these years! How come it was not khaki?*

The mock black and white Tudor building to which you refer (photo, top centre) has long since been pulled down and replaced by a much improved two-storey classroom block annexed to Big School (photo bottom centre, apparently taken in 1960). Trouble is, having been built that long ago, it probably has Crittall single-glazed windows throughout and is therefore cold in the winter? It means that the original open pathway between the old Armoury (Dayboy changing rooms) and Big School (remember drinking those 1/3 pint bottles of milk left each morning beside the side gate?) is now fully enclosed and thus under cover.

That noticeboard fixed to the external wall of Big School where Masters would post up team selections for rugby and cricket/rowing crews, etc, is still there but no longer exposed to the elements. I can recall examining each listing for the 1st & 2nd XV and being disappointed not to see my name thereon!

See photo (top left) taken circa 1955–56, showing the late Alick Rowe (SUO in CCF) seated on the Acropolis mound with David Anwyl (left) and the late Michael Forge (right), with me standing at the back, hands in pockets.

Likewise, what we referred to as the 'New Block', built next to the HM's house and bordering the Deanery back lawn, now has an elevated roof (atrium) and it's been renamed The Portman Building. I can fondly remember entering school as a boarder in September 1952, aged just 10, and being placed in Form One on the top floor of 'The Portman' overlooking Castle Street, with Roger (Lanky) Lancaster as our form teacher. That building also had Crittall single-glazed windows.

AND A RESPONSE FROM HIS CORRESPONDENT (MAJOR) MARTIN EVERETT (OH 1959)

*The term 'OTC' disappeared in 1948 when the Combined Cadet Force (CCF) replaced it. So, the bag is at least pre-WW2. The size of it suggests that it was used to carry/store unit equipment rather than as a personal bag. The latter were much larger, about three feet (one metre) tall with a carrying strap and usually khaki material – I think I still have mine in the loft somewhere.

Photos: (top left) see previous column; (top middle) Touch rugby in the Yard circa 1960, with Armoury in background; (bottom middle) see previous column; (top right) Howard Griffiths (left) and Andrew Megginson, Acropolis, 1958; (bottom right) Deanery lads showing the Wye having burst its banks, 1954: (left to right) W. Tucker, M. Wilson, A. Megginson, J. McLuskie, M. Tinsley, unknown, J. Prickett, P. Robbins.

LETTERS

SHARING YOUR MEMORIES



FLIGHT CLUB

This letter was written in response to last year's 'Come fly with me' by Richard Hartley... the sequel.

Having mostly followed in Captain Richard Hartley's footsteps, I thought a few recollections of my early days as an Old Deanery border appropriate. Amongst the terrifying introduction to being institutionalised away from home was the assignment to one of the monitors' studies for menial boot cleaning, etc. I was most fortunate to be appointed to downstairs study. Incumbents: head of house Graham Voss and one Richard Hartley, a civilised experience as there were corporal-punishing sociopaths elsewhere.

HCS taught me many skills in addition to Messers Rumsey, Morris and Nicholson's miraculous teaching, allowing an early exit, still aged 17, with four A-Levels under the belt. Civil Engineering at Brum followed six months as a theatre porter at Hereford General. Experience of HCS CCF's RAF section greatly assisted in passing selection for BA's training college at Hamble. Another spell at the county hospital boosted the finances in preparation.

In 1973, BA needed every pilot it could train; however, by graduation in 1975 there had been the Yom Kippur war, an ensuing oil crisis and a miners' strike. Recession and the three day week. Instead of a conversion course onto a Trident or VC10, we were employed as stewards on the 747. As a country boy from Longtown, I had never been on any commercial flight and my very first trip was to Australia and NZ, via SE Asia, 18 days away. A bit of an eye opener. Professionally, the hedonistic lifestyle had to end and I then moved to the pointy end and flew KingAirs to the Shetlands, aka 'the land of horizontal rain'. Another set back in BA followed and I beat off the competition for a job on an executive jet in the Middle East. The chance mention at the foot of my CV included bridge, securing an advantage with the interviewing Chief Pilot, and was able to boast of our third place in the English schools duplicate bridge tournament – thanks to Mr Shave*. BAE bridge club in Dhahran beckoned. A life-changing opportunity gained from membership of an HCS club. Six years later, three as a Captain, I returned to BA and after a spell at Birmingham base, was an early convert onto the then new 747–400. Eighteen years flying the 'Queen of the Skies' was a tremendous privilege, with a few more on the 777 sandwiched in the middle.

My final trip was a Bangkok–Sydney, ending where it started. I had the privilege of flying the rich and famous: a highlight was a long one-to-one chat with Lady Thatcher, just after 9/11, on an otherwise empty first class to Dallas. I relayed a recollection of an encounter in 1983 that had no significance at the time. A Lear jet arrived and parked next to our shiny new jet at Medinah airport, Saudi Arabia. It belonged to Bin Laden aviation and was piloted by CEO, Salim. While he checked out our plane, I chatted to his brother, called Osama. An eloquent fellow student of civil engineering, we discussed aircraft structure and the pioneering use of composites. No hint whatsoever of what was to come. Having lunch in a Jeddah hotel, a large man sat next to us. Idi Amin. Sporting heroes were more my cup of tea, including Gower, Eels and the late Barry Sheen.

Capt Hartley and I did cross paths once in a small waiting room for pilots at LHR. I glanced at the name badge of this handsome gent and introduced myself as having met before. There was not a flicker of recognition from Richard: "A flight perhaps?" – no. "In a bar?" – no. Much earlier, I said. The Old Deanery, 1964. "Good grief," he said. At this point I announced loudly: "I was your Fag," causing much hilarity and wolf whistles from the assembled peers. Sorry Richard.

On a sadder note, regarding obituaries in the magazine – Dr Stephen Rowlands: fellow inmate and friend in the Deanery and excellent scrum half. David Keyte: a year younger, a superb batsman (went on to play for Worcs seconds) and rugby fullback. Also played football for Hereford United. I tackled him during pre-season training, sadly causing a knee injury, which weakened the team as Coach Brian Talbot insisted that I fill his role.

Richard Aston (OH 1970)

Photo: Pictured on arrival in 2006 with daughter Holly (OH) at 4.45am after a 13-hour flight from Hong Kong. Holly married OH Richard Wilson and we now have two beautiful granddaughters. Pippa Aston (OH) has recently given birth to a delightful grandson (see Hatches on page 30).

***Ed: how many other OHs owe Alex Shave and his chess club their career?**

FROM MAKEUP TO SHAKE-UP

After finishing school in 2016, I was determined and driven towards a career in the special effects makeup industry. It was hard to convince certain people that this would be a viable job option, with many not taking it seriously. I threw myself into what was my main hobby in order to make it work as a career. After taking a year out to train and get experience with hair and makeup, I was accepted into the University of the Arts London with a place on their hair, makeup and prosthetics degree course.

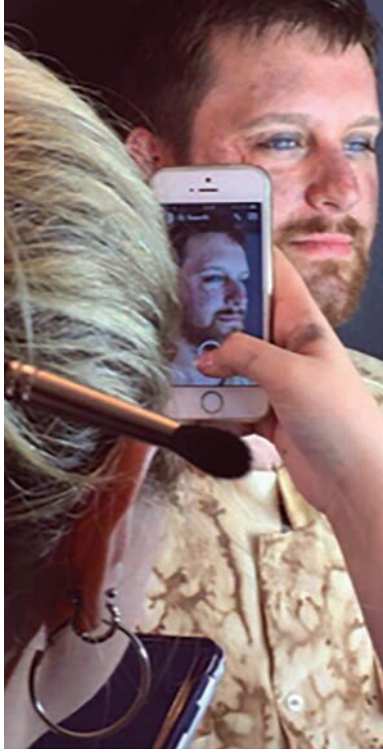
I had an absolutely incredible time on the course, making five wigs in total, out of materials from human hair to one made out of goose feathers! Then I went on to attend the pre-Bafta Awards makeup party, working for the university by teaching demonstrations, to then gaining hands-on work experience with Mark Coulier, a double Oscar-winning makeup artist.

However, after finishing in 2020 with a 2:1, the few doubts I had in the back of my mind were exacerbated by the pandemic which caused all industry work to come to a standstill. I felt extremely lost for a few months, fretting that I had boxed myself into a niche job area.

> "I believe it is important to remember that no experience is useless and will help to set you apart from the crowd"

After pulling myself together, I knew that while I had time on my side, it was time for a career change. The pandemic really stressed to me the necessity for stable and reliable living. I had always contemplated a career in law, even telling the former headmaster, Mr Smith, that that was what area I would study, but my disappointing A-Level results put me off pursuing it. Fast forward to 2021, I enrolled on the Open University's law degree through their graduate entry, fitting three years into two. I had had the full university experience living away in London and so was more than happy to study at home full time, mostly because I did not think I could survive any more first year communal kitchens! So I threw myself into law, pushing myself mentally further than I have ever done before, while also working part-time, and have finished this year with first-class honours.



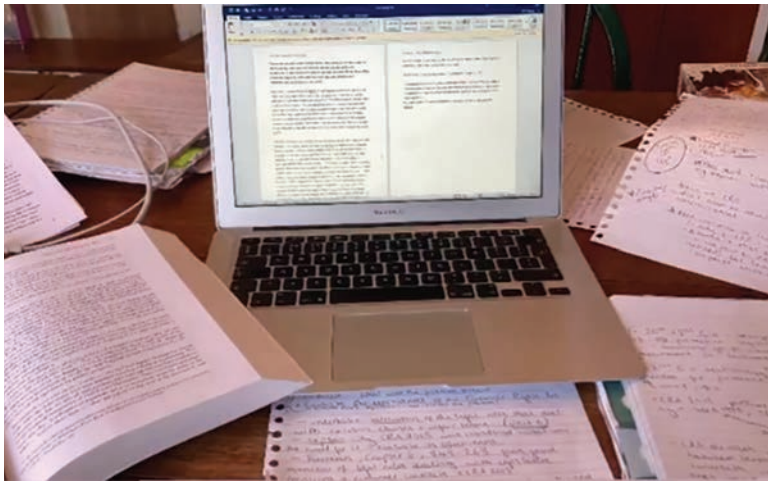


Looking back now, to some my first degree may seem like a complete waste of my time (I myself even thought so at one point). However, the experiences I have had on that course have been so incredibly valuable to me, not only in terms of creativity, but by providing me with invaluable transferable skills (whether that be making a wig or wearing one for the courtroom!). I think everything happens for a reason. I still enjoy the arts, but I realised that it is better suited to being my hobby.

I am excited to see where this degree will take me, while considering all options open to me, not just legal. Even though it seems daunting to want to up and change careers completely, I believe it is important to remember that no experience is useless and will help to set you apart from the crowd. Degrees so polar opposite will always provide a great talking point, as well as showing some personality.

Katherine Lindley (OH 2016)

Katherine recently finished a law degree with first class honours and hopes to continue and qualify as a solicitor. Her grandfather, William E. Glover, was a former chemistry teacher at the School.









HOME-GROWN TALENT

When I left HCS in 2020, after spending 15 years there, deciding what to do was a daunting decision. I decided to make the leap and dive into university. Having been someone who loves home and being on the family farm all my life, this was a hard choice, but I thought it was better to give it a go than regret it further down the line!

After two short terms at Harper Adams University, studying Rural Enterprise and Land Management, and contending with the Covid-19 pandemic, I decided that I had given it a go, and it was time to exit.

The first weekend back home, I felt a weight off my shoulders – for me this was one of the best decisions I have ever made to this day. While university is definitely an experience, it is a journey that I felt wasn't for me, and the relief I felt when I was back on Herefordshire soil secured the feeling.

Shortly after this, I decided that maybe Rural Land Management wasn't really my thing, and I had to think about what my long term goals were, and what I'm passionate about to begin a career in Hereford.

After lots of evaluations at home, and long discussions about what I love doing, and what I don't, I decided that marketing was something I wanted to try.

It was important to me to find a job working for a local, independent business, a place where I can grow within my role and excel at the things I enjoy, which is when I stumbled across a position at Philip Morris & Son, with managing directors Bruce and John Jones (both OHs).

Being a shop I purchased from frequently, I knew that this was something I'd enjoy, and am passionate about, therefore I had to give it a go. This is a life choice that I will never regret: I have now found a job which I love in a team which is friendly and accepting.

After being in post for almost a year, I have worked at the Royal Three Counties Show and the Game Fair on the Philip Morris & Son stand, alongside working in the marketing team doing everything from listings on the website to running our social media accounts.

> "HCS prepares you for the opportunities you receive once you have left the school, and how you can use your skills to project yourself into the big wide world"

Something commonly talked about at HCS are the endless opportunities within the school. What isn't talked about so much is how HCS also prepares you for the opportunities you receive once you have left the school, and how you can use your skills to project yourself into the big wide world. I'm sure that if it weren't for the skills I learnt at school, I would have had a harder time gathering the courage to leave university, and I wouldn't be in the job I love today.

Harriet Matthews (OH 2020)

Photos: (left) On the Harper Adams University farm.

(right) The Philip Morris & Son team at the Game Fair.

(inset) Harriet's last day at HCS.



ADVENTURES IN SURGERY

A NEW ZEALAND ELECTIVE



A month-long elective period spent studying overseas proved to be an unforgettable adventure both in and out of theatre for Mat Smith (OH 2017). He tells us about his advances in trauma surgery and sightseeing...

After six years of medical school, with finals completed, I was delighted to finally see the light at the end of the tunnel – a four-week elective period. This was an opportunity for me to travel abroad and gain experience in an area of my choosing. Having packed up from Edinburgh, I set off on my 26-hour journey to New Plymouth on the North Island of New Zealand. Here I would be based in the Taranaki Base Hospital, situated in the shadow of the impressive Mount Taranaki.

The focus of my elective was set to be in surgery, with two weeks in general surgery and two weeks in trauma and orthopaedic surgery, an area in which I have developed a strong interest throughout medical school.

During my time in general and colorectal surgery I was lucky enough to see a huge variety of aspects of the speciality that you simply don't get the time to see in medical school. Clinics were diverse and ranged from management of simple benign conditions to new diagnosis and treatment plans for colorectal cancer. There was opportunity for me to observe endoscopy lists, where oesophageal and gastric problems could be diagnosed and treated in one five-minute procedure in the hands of experienced consultants.

Yet my favourite thing about the elective was the time I got to spend in the operating theatre. With trainers keen to teach and get me involved, the experience was second to none. I was able to act as the first assistant for several operations, and to observe many more, with teaching allowing me to develop my basic surgical skills such as suturing and keyhole instrument handling.

> "While I have been well trained to ask about smoking in the UK, I was not prepared to be asking about how many open fire barbeques they were having"

In general surgery the operations ranged from gallbladder removal to cancer surgery, but also included toe amputations, thyroid gland surgery and breast surgery, as the general surgeons perhaps had more breadth to cover than those I have seen in the large, tertiary specialist centres I have become accustomed to in Edinburgh.

My time in trauma and orthopaedic surgery was equally diverse and exciting. Agriculture and adventure activities are prominent in New Zealand and so trauma surgery for initial management of fractures and soft tissue injuries was again wide-ranging, reflecting the breadth of injury mechanisms.

The elective side of orthopaedics highlighted the positive impact surgery can have on patients' quality of life. Osteoarthritis is a very common condition in older age, and it is often debilitating both physically and mentally for the patient. Joint replacement is therefore an extremely important and beneficial operation that can see quick positive results with patients walking out of the hospital the next day or, increasingly, the same day. Being able to see the patients pre-op, assisting the surgeons during the operations, and then seeing the patients in the follow-up clinic was a fantastic opportunity to follow the patient journey and hear the positive experiences they often reported.

"I was able to act as the first assistant for several operations, and to observe many more"

The New Zealand healthcare system – Te Whatu Ora – and the NHS share many similarities. They are both publicly funded systems offering the most cutting-edge treatments and medicines. However, there is health inequality in both too. In New Zealand GP and physio appointments following an operation cost money, meaning that uptake of these services is low among the poorer demographics. This inequality is particularly visible in the Māori populations across the country.

Equally, the different cultures in New Zealand mean that there are different risk factors to consider when taking histories off patients. While I have been well trained to ask about smoking in the UK, I was not prepared to need to be asking about how many open fire barbeques they were having when considering risk factors for lung and airway cancer, which is reported to be a particular problem in the Pacific nations.

Outside of healthcare and my time in the hospital on placement, I was fortunate enough to have plenty of time to travel around this truly magnificent country. The North Island had recently been hit badly by Cyclone Gabrielle and the signs of this were apparent in several landslides and road closures. However, with prompt repair works underway I was able to take my hire car around and see some of the many sights on offer, including geothermal pools, caving lit up by glow-worms, surfing, drives through Hobbiton, test match cricket in Wellington, Super Rugby matches and fishing to name but a few of my North Island exploits.

I was also able to spend a week in the stunning South Island of the country. Here I was able to explore the glacial mountains and turquoise lakes, while also getting my fair share of enjoyment from the adventure epicentre of Queenstown.



I am confident that this was a trip of a lifetime, offering the chance to further my experience and knowledge in surgery while also spending time in a stunning and friendly country. I have made friends that I know I will keep in touch with, met surgical trainees keen to help, and now have first-hand experience of what I could expect should I opt to spend time in New Zealand working as a junior doctor. (Te Whatu Ora and New Zealand have a slight edge on the NHS). I am grateful for the OH Travel Award and Evolva Fund for helping to support this unforgettable elective period.

Mat Smith
OH 2017

Photos: *opposite page (top) Taking the 138m leap off the Nevis Bungy in Queenstown; (inset) I was able to spend plenty of time scrubbed into theatre cases.*

This page (top) Lake Hāwea – fed by glacial water from the Southern Alps; (bottom) The view from my hospital accommodation, dominated by the 2,518m Mount Taranaki.



COMMON ROOM SHUFFLE

ALEC BALLENTYNE

Head of Biology (2019–23)

Mr Ballentyne joined HCS as teacher of Biology as a new graduate from Birmingham University. He immediately impressed staff and students alike with his enthusiasm for the subject and his friendly and approachable manner. When Dr Zac Watkins stood down as Head of Department, Mr Ballentyne was the obvious choice for replacement. He has risen to the challenge and been an outstanding Head of Department.

Mr Ballentyne has immersed himself in all aspects of school life; he has organised the very successful trips to Kenya, field trips to Borth, and a Psychology trip. He is also very involved with DofE – overseeing the Silver Award – and was even trip chef on the Pyrenees trip. Mr Ballentyne is a committed biologist and takes seriously the idea that Biology is the study of life. As a result, under Mr Ballentyne's leadership, the Biology Department now keeps live animals; Wacko the chameleon has been a particularly joyful addition to school life. Mr Ballentyne has left to become Head of Biology at Cheltenham College.

DUNCAN FILER

Assistant Houseparent & Teacher of EAL (2022–23)

Mr Filer joined HCS as Assistant Houseparent and Teacher of English as an Additional Language in September 2022. The pupils at the boarding house benefited enormously from Mr Filer's passion for outdoor activities. He was involved in many aspects of school life, including CCF and helping in the Learning Support Department. Mr Filer moved on to become the manager of a sheltered housing complex.

SIMON FRASER

Graduate Assistant (2022–23)

Mr Fraser joined HCS last academic year, supporting the running of Wilmot House with aplomb and building an excellent rapport with the boarders. Mr Fraser has also played a key role in the delivery of junior boys' hockey in the Spring Term and athletics in the Summer Term, attending and assisting with many athletics events. Mr Fraser has always impressed with his calm and level-headed approach to school life.

WILL HARGRAVES

Chemistry Technician (2022–23)

Following completion of his A-Levels at HCS in 2022, Mr Hargraves took on the role of Technician in the Chemistry Department as maternity cover, ably supporting the teaching staff with lesson preparations. He will be taking up a place at Bristol University to study Medicine in the autumn, and we wish him all the very best for his university life.

LAUREN HARRIS-JONES

Houseparent & Head of Futures (2022–23)

Mrs Harris-Jones joined HCS as Houseparent and Head of Futures in 2022. We are grateful for the work she did in running Wilmot House. As Head of Futures, she introduced the post-18 platform, Unifrog, to all year groups, to support the School's increased emphasis on Futures. Mrs Harris-Jones also ran a successful elective for the HCS Diploma on interview skills, using her extensive knowledge and expertise of the UCAS process to support the Year 12 and 13 pupils with university interview techniques. Additionally, she worked alongside the UCAS team to support the international pupils with their UCAS applications.



HELEN KEMBLE-DAVIES

Matron (1993–2023)

Mrs Kemble-Davies served as a Matron at HCS for the past 30 years. It is difficult to estimate the number of pupils whose lives have been positively impacted by her care, kindness and support. Mrs Kemble-Davies had a remarkable ability to connect with everyone she met. She seemed to understand their needs and concerns, be they a pupil, parent or member of staff; she has listened and helped, imparting her wisdom and knowledge to the many young people who have walked through the door.

In the words of the Deputy Head of School who spoke to the pupils in her final week: "Mrs Kemble-Davies has always been a beloved and cherished member of our school community during her time here, always ready with a smile, a kind word or a helping hand. She has been a source of comfort and support to all those who have had the pleasure of knowing her. Her friendly, compassionate nature, and devotion towards her work, have made her a truly invaluable member of our school."

Mrs Kemble-Davies has always given her best in everything that she has done; she was always eager to keep up to date with changing times. Her communications with all were always so polite, and in written form, almost poetic! The gratitude and fondness shown by the pupils



is the true testimony to Mrs Kemble-Davies's dedication and service to the School, and she will be greatly missed for her strength of character and level of patience. Whenever she sees an OH around and about, she will always be known as 'Matron' – one can retire, but never lose the title!

ISABELLE MAGWOOD

Teacher of French (2019–23)

Mrs Magwood joined HCS in 2019 as a teacher of Modern Foreign Languages; her knowledge of European languages is extremely impressive, being a teacher of French, Spanish and Italian. Her engaging and refreshing approach to teaching has inspired her pupils to fall in love with language learning and to follow her example of always giving things a go. Mrs Magwood was one of the first to run a school trip abroad after Covid restrictions were lifted, and the pupils of Year 8 and 9 greatly enjoyed the chance to practise their French in Normandy. Her openness, honesty and fearlessness will be greatly missed by her colleagues, who wish her all the best as she moves on to semi-retirement.

"It is difficult to estimate the number of pupils whose lives have been positively impacted by her care, kindness and support"

DAVID POOLE

Facilities & Transport Assistant (2017–23)

Mr Poole joined HCS in 2017 and has played a key role in the Facilities Department, responsible for the daily checks of school vehicles, as well as driving school minibuses. Mr Poole will be remembered for his calm and laid-back approach to life, and his helpful, can-do attitude.

DR PETER POVEY

Head of Instrumental Studies & Music Technology (2022–23)

Dr Povey is an exceptional violinist, and pupils, parents and staff alike have been bowled over by the public performances he has given, which have inspired many a school instrumentalist.

JOHN SEEBERG

Enterprise Manager (2022–23)

Mr Seeberg was the School's first ever Enterprise Manager and after a distinguished business career, holding senior positions in Diageo and Bulmers, Mr Seeberg's role at HCS was to maximise non-fee opportunities, through such things as the commercialisation of the estate and renting out Wilmot House during holiday periods. Mr Seeberg quickly established himself in his role and his professionalism and commitment soon started to pay dividends. Contracts with Hereford Boxing Club and King's Camps, for example, were duly signed. Mr Seeberg relished the experience of working in a school and was an excellent colleague.

KIRSTY SOCKETT

Teacher of Speech & Drama (2013–23)

Mrs Sockett joined the Speech & Drama Department in 2013, immediately making an impact on pupils in the Junior School and Year 7. She has ensured hundreds of pupils have increased their performance skills, confidence and self-esteem, all with the kindness and nurturing care that goes hand in hand with Speech & Drama. HCS's outstanding LAMDA and Herefordshire Festival results are testament to her commitment and attention to detail which will transfer in her new role with Herefordshire Cricket.

KEVIN STUCHBERRY

Maintenance Assistant (2002–23)

Mr Stuchberry left HCS this summer after an impressive 21-year service. He could often be seen out in the Close or around Old Deanery lawn, wheeling his trolley about. It was Mr Stuchberry's role to keep the grounds spick and span, and he has done a marvellous job over the years.

BEN WELLBURN

Head of Rowing (2018–23)

Mr Wellburn's impact on rowing at HCS has been extremely significant. He has built a real sense of community among the rowers, who have thrived under his leadership. The School's success in rowing has been notable over recent years, with a number of triumphs at competitions, most notably at National Schools Regatta, as well as considerable success at Henley. This year, for the first time ever, and under Mr Wellburn's coaching, a current HCS pupil has gained a GB Rowing vest.

ELLIE WESTOBY

Graduate Assistant (2022–23)

Miss Westoby has spent the past year as a Graduate Assistant at Wilmot House; she has familiarised herself with the various systems and built up a good rapport with the boarders, especially those with an interest in sport. She has also played an integral role in hockey, netball and cricket; running teams and delivering training both in and outside of the curriculum.

SAM WILSON

Teacher of Art (2022–23)

Mrs Wilson joined the Art Department in 2022 as maternity cover. She had a great rapport with the students; creating a calm and creative atmosphere, and her broad art history knowledge made her the perfect tutor for our A-Level project essays.

Photo: *Helen Kemble-Davies*


1990


1982


1993


1987


1993


2001


2001


2001


2018


2001

REUNIONS

WE MEET AGAIN

1982 REUNION

Class of '82 enjoyed an informal reunion at De Koffee Pot Hereford, starting the year of 60th birthday celebrations. Attending were Alex Plant, Anna Ellis (née Brookes), Ruth Kramer, Karen MacDonald (née Glover; not in photo) and sister Jeanette, Ruth Jones, Sian Alderton (née James), Richard Atkinson, Tim Evans, Ashley Brown and Jonathan Steele (not in photo).

1987 REUNION

Representing one of their peers, the late Clive Weston (OH 1987), at his father Anthony's memorial (see obituary on page 45), this merry band met on a cold day at the start of the year. Spirits may have been low due to the occasion but it was still a gathering of the clan.

1990 LEAVERS

The OH event for leavers of 1990 was a last-minute call. A few were able to attend and the whole day was fantastic. Most of the group had not been back to the school since summer 1990.

School kindly gave us a tour, starting in what was the Monitors Common Room and is now the OH Room. The stories started there. Chat of the school disco when we were shown the dining room! The sports hall and astro area were admired, and funny moments in the 'gym' chuckled about. The buildings on school yard seemed to be the same, but it was felt that more work would take place there in present times.

We were joined by Marnie Wooderson, John Priday and Mrs Lawrence. Really lovely to see these fantastic members of staff. Much talk of 'Venture Scouts' and what an important role the group played in the school. The library was larger and we decided most of us had not spent much time there! Food and drinks in the Cosy Club later led to a wonderful day. If organised again in the future, hopefully more folks will join us. Worth the trip! Thank you so much HCS for organising.

Gay Butterworth

1993 REUNION

The date of 17th June 2023 saw the sun shining down, the prosecco flowing and the sumptuous nibbles devoured as a committed few made it to the leavers' reunion for the 30th anniversary of our leaving HCS.

We were treated to a tour of the school, a trip down memory lane, access to some memorabilia and photos from our year group. Although a small gathering, it was nonetheless warming to see faces from the past, and catch up with life stories. With individuals making the trip from both far and wide as well as some of us more local to Hereford. Mrs Miles and Mrs Hodges made the visit all the more special by joining us for our reception in No 1.

The only notable changes to the school were the sports hall at the back of No 1 and the science block. The latter even hosts live animals in terrariums and looks so much cooler than Mr Dunn's old chemistry room. The old Studio theatre has also been converted into a fabulous library and quiet learning space. Other than that, the changes were minimal. The old study block – exactly the same! The biggest change was meeting the new headmaster who is clearly younger than us. A sad time (haha!). Good luck to him. He has a legacy school to lead and maintain.

I raise my glass to the school, the new students and Old Herefordians alike, and to those of 1993 who couldn't make it.

Callie Bradley (née Wells)

2001 REUNION

On 1st July 2023 a handful of 2001 leavers met up for a first OH reunion. All marvelled at how, after 22 years, HCS is a juxtaposition of the ambitiously new and the amusingly unaltered: the rectangular lawn behind No 1, which pupils were forbidden from treading upon, is now a sports pitch (so, it wasn't cursed); while some isolated graffito, bearing familiar names, is still in place in School House (which really says more about our cohort than anything else). Mind you, a visitor from any cohort from the last eight hundred years would feel the same while touring the school today; HCS is a mixture of the new, the old, and the very, very old.

It was touching that Mr Jackson, Mr Priday and Mrs De Souza made themselves available to meet us, and staggering that they could remember who we were, given that scores of pupils have passed under their watch since we left in the summer of 2001. Thank you to them and to the OH Club for organising the day.

Nico Vaughan

2018 REUNION

Five years on, and having survived studying in Covid lockdowns, the leavers of 2018 returned to HCS. They found the school much as they remembered and enjoyed pointing out classmates in display photographs of plays and sports teams of their era. The list of names after theirs on the Sports Honours boards in the Zimmerman Hall caused them to reflect on the passage of time, as did the Heads of School Honours Boards in the Library.



OHiL REUNION AUTUMN 2022

Wet conditions prevented us from fully utilising the open-air terrace that overlooks the Thames, although some of us did sit outside for a while eating our lunch until a heavy downpour arrived. In total there were just 14 OHs present, spanning several decades, and they came from locations such as Shropshire, Somerset, Wiltshire, East Anglia, Sussex and Devon as well as those of us resident in the Home Counties and London itself.

Peter Fairman-Bourn

OHiL REUNION SPRING 2023

To mark exactly 20 years since the formation of our OHiL alumni sub-group in April 2003, OHiL staged a buffet lunch at Doggett's Coat & Badge, London SE1, being the pub venue at which the group usually meets twice a year during spring and autumn.

Organisers Peter Fairman-Bourn and Ian Harwood welcomed 23 people on this occasion, including guests from Hereford. Preliminary plans are to stage a spring gathering on Thursday 23rd May 2024. For more details please contact **admin@ohil.org.uk**.

Photo (right, large group): Doggett's, 11th May 2023. At the back, standing, from left to right: Allison Tucker and husband Bill Tucker; Mike Hawkins; Clive Rees; Ian Harwood (slightly obscured); David Bland; Patrick Broome; Fiona Mason; Peter Broome; Duncan Pierce; Richard Hartley. Middle row, standing, from left to right: Trish Brittain (née Hopewell); John (Lenny) Pound with his left hand on shoulder of Timothy Pringle (crouching); Roger Ridler; Peter Brown. Peter Fairman-Bourn seated in the front next to Keith Rippin (kneeling).

Photo (middle right): Two ex-choristers from the 1950s: Roger Ridler (left) and Keith Rippin (right).

Photo (bottom right): Annual Service for Advent at the Guards' Chapel inside Wellington Barracks SW1 on 29th November 2022. Peter Fairman-Bourn with Martin Everett (a former Major in the Territorials) attended and the Cathedral Choir were present along with members of the HC Clergy including Dean Sarah Brown (right).













WINNERS' DINNER

Since 1984 the Withers Elective Prize has caused a stir among the pupil body each summer. It is the only prize in the School where the winner is selected by the pupil body and is a tremendous accolade for the winner, who is chosen for the depth and breadth of their contribution to the life of the School. The award was the brainchild of Gary Withers (OH 1981) and his parents and was shaped after consultation with Ege Parker.

Forty years on, Gary kindly hosted a dinner to gather all the past winners together and the turnout was tremendous, especially given that twenty percent of winners now live overseas. Winners had a varied and interesting range of experiences post-HCS, and there was a thread of service and contribution that could be seen in all their life choices.

Gary said: "It was a genuine delight to meet up with all the 'winners'. We spanned at least one generation but all with a common, shared experience of HCS, and I sensed a common thread of purpose and positive energy which was great to see."

Going forwards, it is hoped that the group can create a fund for bursaries at HCS, and winners' contributions will be generously matched by Gary.

Photo: (back row) Jamie Walker, Noel Lester, Gay Butterworth (née Watkins), Richard Penney, Morgan Condon, Richard Brooks, Barry Plane, Gary Withers, Michael Gray, Simon Hollingworth, Hugh Campbell.

(middle section) Heather Walker, Felicity Hunter-Choat, Abbie Taft (née Lewis), Dominic Lacey, Tara Kelly, Dr Zac Watkins.

(front row) Judah Moore, Richard Edwards, Bo Mifflin.

"Opportunity and application. These two words for me, would sum up my Withers Elective Prize."

When I won the award back in 1998, I felt totally amazed, honoured and grateful. It felt like I was given an invisible coat, which I put on and then never took off! A quiet feeling of self-confidence, reassurance and happiness, that to grab opportunity, and apply yourself to this wholeheartedly, was getting a nod from your fellow students.

I took this mentality with me from Castle Street and continued to throw myself into different job challenges and experiences, learning new things and meeting new people with that same attitude. I have been an Assistant Head of Music at Beaudesert Park School, Head of Girls' Games at The Elms and now Head of Drama at Hereford Cathedral Junior School.

I feel so lucky to have been able to follow and continue with my interests in both sport and the arts and to encourage children to take part in it all, regardless of their ability! Sport for all, music for all, drama for all! Inclusive, positive, creations using collective energy, is what I believe life is all about.

My message for others would be: grasp every opportunity you can, dig deep and apply yourself to whatever it may be – work, music, sport, relationships. I think this will hold you in good stead for the challenges of life ahead and I am always so grateful and thankful for my opportunities I had at HCS.

Heather Walker (OH 1998)



GOLF DAY & OH DAY 2022

GOLF DAY

The winners of this year's OH Golf Day were the team consisting of Angus Craig, Clive Mugridge, Nigel Austin and Andrew Singer. Andrew Singer organised the day and was presented with a bottle of wine by the Club for his continuing support to the OH Club.

OH DAY 2022

OH Day 2022 incorporated the handing over of the President role of the OH Club to Richard Binnersley at the AGM. Sports were driven indoors by poor weather but spirits were not dampened at the traditional Christmas lunch and sherry. See page 12 for this year's inaugural autumn date for OH Sports.

FOOTBALL

It was a great OH encounter for us at the Football. Unfortunately, with the weather being as it was, we had no choice but to opt for some indoor football. However, this didn't disappoint. A thrilling, competitive, evenly matched game with even Mr Milsom and Mr Rogers making a small appearance for the OH team.

With both teams taking the lead throughout the game, the match finally finished in a 3–3 draw. So, in true World Cup spirit I thought it was best that the winners were to be decided with a penalty shootout.

Both teams scoring early on, the pressure was mounting with the final few penalties; the HCS team sent their next penalty flying over the cross bar very similar to Harry Kanes' miss for England. That meant OH had to score to win... with experience on their side, they stepped up confidently and slotted the ball past the keeper to secure the win for OH. Well done to all involved!

Joel Edwards

> "A thrilling, competitive, evenly matched game"

HOCKEY

OH Hockey was forced inside but was a fantastic experience for everyone all the same. Indoor hockey is fast and OH came out winners in the end: 9–6 in a hard-fought game in front of lots of spectators.

Andy Rogers





















MATCHES & HATCHES

Kate Dillon (née Owens) (OH 2011) *recounts the delays and dramas of getting married during Covid...*

I remember the moment vividly; the moment when then Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced that weddings were to be limited to 30 people. It was Spring 2021. We were already on our second wedding date... after getting engaged in February 2019, we initially planned and organised a July 2020 wedding. As with many other couples, that idea was taken away in the wake of Covid-19 in March 2020.

However, we were hopeful to have our big wedding on Friday 14th May 2021, yet after the announcement that guests were still limited to 30, we rearranged plans a third time and moved the day by three days to Monday 17th May 2021, when 28 of our nearest and dearest (masks accompanied) saw us tie the knot. It was a truly glorious day, made even more glorious with my husband, James, and me keeping the secret that we were eight weeks pregnant.

Fast-forward to January 2022 and our little one, George, entered the world. Now the time came to start planning our wedding party! It was indeed a very busy year with late nights and early mornings, and in September 2022 I went back to my roots and began my position as Headmaster's PA at Hereford Cathedral School.

"It was a truly glorious day"

And then, after another year of planning, we finally came together with 220 friends and family on Saturday 27th May 2023 and celebrated our wedding party. We were blessed with the most beautiful weather, gorgeous company and, this time, as a family of three!

Photo (centre): *James and Kate with Kate's family – (left to right) Ed Owens (OH) and his wife Lisa, Glyn Owens (OH), George Dillon, James Dillon, Kate Dillon (OH), Debbie Owens, Sophie Owens (teacher in Junior School), Andy Owens (OH).*



MATCHES

1 **Holly Hughes** (OH 2006) married David Andrews at Islington Town Hall, London, on 29th October 2022 in the presence of their loved ones. Maid of Honour was the bride's younger sister Felicity Chamberlain (née Hughes; OH 2010). The celebrations continued afterwards with a candlelit meal at Luca restaurant.

2 **Jack Huntley** (OH 2010) married Giovanna on 20th May 2023 in West London.

3 **Rhiannon Harn** (née Jenkins; OH 2008–13) married partner Samuel Harn in the Lady Chapel of Hereford Cathedral on 2nd September 2023.

The two bridesmaids to the left as you look at the photo (below left) are OHs. Furthest left: Alicia Lord (OH 2002–13). Second in from left: Laura Morris (OH 2001–15).

4 **Grace Roderick** (OH 2010) married Daniel Baldock in Hereford Cathedral on 9th July 2022.

HATCHES

5 **Holly Andrews** (née Hughes; OH 2006) and her husband David welcomed Clara Louise Andrews, born weighing 8lb 5oz on 8th January 2023 at University College Hospital, London.

6 **Ben Ellis** (OH 2005) and his wife Alice welcomed their second son Huw Peter Shea Ellis at Kingston hospital on 24th January 2023. A very happy addition to the family and a brother for Finn.

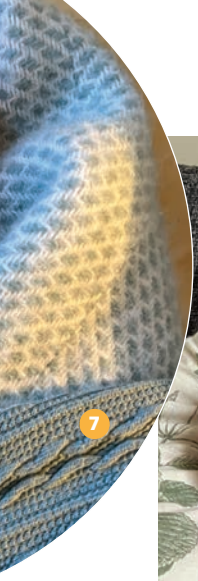
7 **Sarah Hunter-Choat** (OH 2006) and Joe Dinwiddie welcomed their son, Angus, born on 21st September 2022 in Salisbury, weighing 6lb 3oz.

8 **Pippa Holloway** (née Aston; OH 2008) and her husband Aaron became proud parents to Leo Holloway, born on 11th June 2023. Leo is pictured here with cousins Ada (born 17th November 2020) and Millie Wilson (born 10th January 2019) to OH parents **Holly Wilson** (née Aston; OH 2007) and Richard Wilson.








7


8


6


5


2


4


1

OH WHAT A NIGHT
THE OH BALL



Despite the shortage of anticipated summer weather in 2023, we were thrilled on 17th June to be able to make the most of a break in the weather, and even managed some sunshine to anoint the first OH Ball in over 20 years.

Starting with fizz and canapés on the lawn of Old Deanery, we enjoyed a wonderful welcome speech by Dr Gray (current HCS headmaster). Reminding OHs that the school really does belong to them, he encouraged all past pupils and friends of the school to come back and visit whenever they can.

After a quick corralling of the troops, we made our way across the Cathedral Close to the Green Dragon Hotel for the main event. Delicious Herefordian roast beef with all the trimmings, followed by lemon posset, proved an enormous hit and was washed down with plenty of wine for those partaking! The disco finished to a roar of 'play another tune!', and within a flash the party was over.

We were delighted to be able to welcome so many OHs back for the ball, and guests mingled and caught up with old friends as well as making new ones. There were a range of age groups from 2021 Leavers back to 1980 and plenty in the middle, as well. Opening the event to partners added an extra friendly feel to the evening, although plenty of the guests chose to come 'stag'.

The overriding atmosphere in the Green Dragon ballroom was one of joy. Throughout the dinner all that could be heard was chatter and laughter, the finest reflection of an evening being enjoyed. There really is nothing like crossing that hallowed ground of the Cathedral Close, dressed up to the nines on a summer's evening, to bring out the best in everyone!





















THE OH BALL

We'd like to thank the OH committee for their support in making this event happen, as well as the grant from OH funds to enable us to keep ticket prices as low as possible. A special thank you goes to Helen Pearson and Claire Morgan Jones in the Development Office for their help. Talented photographer Isla Hampson perfectly captured the merriment of the evening and we're very grateful to Brightwell's for their kind sponsorship of the reception drinks and canapés.

We are very keen to hold similar future black-tie events and would ask OHs to watch this space for details of OH Summer Ball 2024.

Hayley Ball (née Llewelyn) and
Verity Coleman (née Morris)
OH Ball committee






































alder king
Flint Cook
Estate Agents









OBITUARIES



HUGH CAMERON CRAIG ('LAD') OH 1964

Hugh died in Brazil on Thursday 6th July 2023 having been taken into hospital three days earlier.

At school he was a member of School House, becoming a house monitor and then a school monitor during his last year. He was not one you would describe as an academic as his talents lay elsewhere. On the sporting front he was a valued member of 1st XV who beat Christ College, Brecon away in November 1963. Also, as Captain of Boats for the 1964 season he was a member of 1st VIII crew who won the Hereford Rowing Club Challenge Vase in June 1964 at the Hereford Schools Regatta. If my memory serves me correctly, this Vase was big and was filled and emptied more than once in the Lichfield Vaults, Church Street, to celebrate.

Also, he was an officer in the Schools Combined Cadet Force, through which he achieved the Gold Standard in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme and a trip to Buckingham Palace to receive his certificate from the Duke.

After leaving school he joined English Electric in Stafford as an apprentice in electrical engineering. Subsequent employment was with GEC within the heavy electrical distribution industry in the UK. He kept up his interest in playing rugby both on and off the park in Stafford and later the Manchester area.

Transfer of employment to Bogotà, Colombia, in the 1970s led him to take up residence in South America with a variety of employments, again all within the heavy electrical distribution industry. He was a self-taught Portuguese speaker and so became useful as a translator.

Having become a great grandfather last year he leaves a large, loving family in Brazil.

As children Hugh, my brother, and I got into all sorts of scraps but being slightly older than me he would generally take the blame!

by Angus Craig



BRIAN JOHN GOODE HEAD GROUNDSMAN 1978–2005

Brian came to HCS in 1978 and spent over 30 very happy years at Wyeside. He was a much loved and respected member of school staff and nothing was ever too much trouble for him. He enjoyed every aspect of his work and treated everyone, whether prince or pauper, with the same respect. His dedication to preparing the wickets at Wyeside made for the best in the county.

Brian was a great cricketer. He was captain of Canon Frome cricket team 1sts for many years. He also ran the Herefordshire over 50s team. At HCS he had a keen interest in a variety of sports: he was a much-valued coach for the 2nd 11s. In his retirement he took up golf with great relish and excelled at it.

Brian first arrived at HCS in 1978 for an interview with the then bursar, Tony Hollingworth. He believed that he was being summoned to discuss insurance policies – hence his carriage of a bulging brief-case. Instead, he was offered the position of groundsman. He accepted the job, and within a short time had made (in Headmaster Barry Sutton's words) "an immense difference to the quality of the facilities at Wyeside, and also the appearance of the ground as a whole… We now have a wicket that is safe to play on and it has become a pleasure to watch the games".

This impressive standard of work was maintained for the next quarter of a century until Brian's retirement in 2005. In this way, Brian contributed to the vast improvement in the playing standards of HCS teams over this period. But Brian was more than just a groundsman. As a sportsman himself – and not least as a wily spin bowler and hard-hitting batsman – he entered into the sporting life of the school.

Beyond this, he was an important member of the maintenance team, as well as an occasional school minibus driver, ferrying inspectors around from time to time as well as taking choristers to the annual sporting fixtures (and choral evensong) for western choir schools. And, in retirement, I well recall Brian's prowess on the golf course – he was invariably victorious in our contests on the old Belmont course – and his conviviality at meetings of the Herefordshire cricket society. It's good to know that his son, Robert, a long-serving member of staff in his own right, continues at HCS in his father's footsteps as estates manager, and that his grandchildren are being educated at the school.

by Howard Tomlinson



JOHN C.U. JAMES
OH 1957

John James, who was President of Tennis Europe between 2003 and 2009, served on a host of committees within the sport and was very well known and respected by the tennis family across the world.

James was a member of the ITF Olympic Committee from 1991 to 2009 and a stalwart at multiple Olympic tennis events.

Born in 1937 in Llanelli, Wales, James' route through the ranks of tennis administration began when he was voted council member of the Welsh LTA in 1963. He was heavily involved in junior tennis for much of the ensuing decade, and became an international umpire – officiating at the Wimbledon Championships.

He was elected to represent Wales within the LTA in 1972 and made assistant secretary of the LTA the following year, organising Davis Cup and Wightman Cup matches while in the role, before becoming LTA secretary in 1983.

Two decades later he became LTA Vice President, a role he held between 2003 and 2007, and an Honorary Life Vice President from 2008.

James also served on a host of other committees across the game at domestic level including the Anti-Doping Review Board (1997–2002), Officiating Committee (1997–98), Rules (2004), Wimbledon Museum (2000–08) and the Commonwealth Games Council for England (2003–06).

He was named an Honorary Life President of the British Olympic Association in 2017 after 34 years' service to the National Olympic Committee, and named an OBE in the 2003 New Year's Honours List.

He died on 13th June 2023 following a stroke.

Reproduced from the International Tennis Federation website



SARA ELIZABETH JENNINGS
OH 2006

It is with great sadness that after a short illness my loving partner Sara Jennings passed away on 24th March 2021 in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham. She was 32 years old. She leaves behind family and friends and those who she worked with, and we all still feel her absence.

She was the brightest and most caring person you could meet. But also the most shy and affectionate.

Her friends loved her quirky and very nerdy personality, and her ability to listen to a conversation about her favourite book or movie and pick up on the most obscure facts about a character, and how the story was put together.

She was forever looking into the details of writing, and made it come to life even more. Sara would spend hours reading, where she would get lost, from the battle of Helm's Deep, to reading about the plight of a Soviet prisoner in the Gulag of the 1920s. Her knowledge of history was to be marvelled at.

She would then spend hours telling me all about her reading adventure, with a smile and much wondrous enthusiasm. Sara touched so many people in her life, and as much as I miss her, I know I was so fortunate to have had the chance to spend the time that I did with her.

Her name lives on though, at Warwick University where she has an award in her name for the best dissertation in Renaissance studies.

She was a huge part of my life and she will always be missed, but she still lives on with those who knew her best.

by Paul Shurman



DAVID LAWRENCE
OH 1967

David John Lawrence was born on 17th May 1949 in Kota Bharu, in what was then the British colony of Malaya. Our father was a colonial police officer who first came to Malaya with the Indian Army after the surrender of the Japanese at the end of WWII. Our family, including our parents, David, my sister Sarah and I, remained living there until soon after independence in 1957 when we returned to settle in the UK in Camberley, Surrey, where our parents remained until their deaths in the 1990s.

David went to the local prep school, Hallgrove, and then on to become a boarder at Hereford Cathedral School at age 13, where he became Head of his House and captain of the 1st XV rugby team. From an early age, David demonstrated his natural sympathy for the 'underdog' and a propensity for 'looking after' people he cared about, and this continued for the rest of his life. At school David physically confronted a bully who plagued the younger boys, which ended that boy's bullying days.

David read law at University College London where he also played rugby for the university side. After graduating, David trained as a solicitor with the

London city firm of Coward Chance and thereafter joined a small Fleet Street law firm. In 1976, on the back of an ended romance and encouraged by our father with very fond memories of his colonial times in Malaysia, David decided to take up a position with Deacons in Hong Kong, where he remained for almost 45 years – first as an assistant, then partner and finally a consultant.

In his last years David was a consultant with Haldanes law firm. He loved and enjoyed the law and was tremendously proud of being a lawyer, and was somewhat a workaholic. It was largely how he defined himself. He was a very good, respected and distinguished lawyer of impeccable integrity. David persuaded and mentored many in the next generation to practise law, including his nephew and my son Robin, and many of his trainees have gone on to have very successful careers in law.

After several decades of freewheeling bachelorhood in Hong Kong, David met and later married Sakhon Mansing on his 60th birthday. David and Sa spent time and travelled together across the world – be it playing golf, going on holiday or to visit family or friends from both their sides. David loved Sa deeply and was much comforted by her presence and devotion to him during his last days in hospital.

by Michael Lawrence



NEVILLE MANNING
OH 1952

Neville Manning, from Moreton-on-Lugg, was educated at Hereford Cathedral School before serving three years in the army. After being demobbed he returned to Herefordshire and started playing for Luctonians. After marrying his wife Pauline and moving to Canon Frome, he started playing rugby in the early 1960s for Ledbury. He joined the great Ledbury team of the 1960s captained by Martin Hooper. Ledbury rose to become one of the best junior club sides in the North and West Midlands, regularly beating the likes of Stourbridge and many of the top Gloucester sides.

When Martin Hooper moved on with his job, Manning took over the captaincy of the first team. He always claimed he was lucky to take over the side that Hooper had built. During his season as captain Ledbury were undefeated, playing all the top junior clubs. Manning felt they were fortunate to recruit David Sainsbury, a brilliant number eight who had been playing for Gloucester and was tipped for an England cap.

In that season, Ledbury's reputation was such that Charlie Knipe, the Pontypool Rugby Club President, challenged Ledbury to a game at the end of the season. The Herefordshire side took on a full strength Pontypool team complete with the Welsh internationals of the day and a famous British Lion. In a very competitive game, Ledbury lost by just four points and so lost their season's unbeaten record.

However, Manning was always proud that he had gone 80 minutes in a fierce front row battle against the player he believed was one of the best props to ever come out of the British Isles, Ray Prosser, otherwise known as 'Bulldozer'.

Manning always retained his interest in Ledbury RFC and wanted to hear how they were playing rugby in subsequent years, particularly through his nephew and former firsts captain Rob Manning and in turn his great nephew, Tom Manning, who is currently in the Ledbury firsts.

After hanging up his rugby boots, Manning was frequently to be found at Hereford United and became a vice-president. He suffered ill-health for several years and died on 21st January 2023.

Reproduced courtesy of the *Hereford Times*



JOHN EDWARD MATTHEWS
OH 1956

Born 22nd September 1940, the only son of Thomas Stanley Matthews and Lucy Rose Matthews, John was educated at Hereford Cathedral School, leaving after taking his O-Levels to join his father on the farm. He married Cecelia in 1961 and they had three children: Paul, Mark and Sarah. During the 1960s the dairy retailing business went from strength to strength and a farm was purchased: Marsh House Farm, where John moved in 1967 and lived with his family for the rest of his life.

He saw many changes within the milk industry over the years, not least of which was the introduction by Bartonsham Farm of plastic sachets for the delivery to customers during the 1970s. This delivery method ceased in the early 1980s when, realising that his customers preferred glass bottles, he created a new bottling hall at the dairy and replaced the old traditional farm buildings the dairy operated in with a ground floor containing the production areas and a modern office block above. Plastic jugs came along in the early 1990s and again further development was needed at Bartonsham Farm to house new dairy equipment to fill them in 2003.

During this time he built up the herd of cows to supply the dairy from the 100 or so at Bartonsham in the 1960s to over 700 based in four locations in 2018. On top of this, he also purchased milk from many local farmers to supply what had become a considerable dairy retailing operation, which had grown from an area with a radius of 15 miles from Hereford City in the early days to over 60 miles, encompassing South Wales and the Valleys, Forest of Dean, Worcester, Welshpool, Brecon, Hay-on-Wye, Leominster, Ledbury, Ross and Bromyard.

A keen sportsman, John rowed for Hereford Rowing Club at many regattas and Heads of the River during the 1960s and 1970s, where he acquired the nickname 'Slim'. When his days of rowing finished at the end of the 1970s he moved on in the 1980s to squash at Whitecross Squash Club – an enthusiastic and determined player, he stuck with it until the early 1990s.

A member and past Chairman of Hereford Round Table, it was during his time as Money Raising Chairman for the organisation that he came up with and planned with his fellow Tablers the Fireworks Night on Hereford Racecourse, featuring on that very first occasion Orinoco the Womble as the celebrity guest. This turned out to be an enormously successful event and, due to the huge amount of people trying to get in, brought Hereford to a standstill. An annual Round Table fireworks event has been staged every year since (except during the pandemic). Furthermore it spawned many other Round Table firework nights across the country, raising many thousands of pounds for local charities nationwide.

He was involved with the NFU for many years, holding various honorary roles within the organisation.

His keen skiing and golfing with the Hackers Society led to many enjoyable times both on the golf course and in the mountains. A fan of horse racing and rugby, he led a very active social life with Cecelia, which also included being a member of Herefordshire Agriculture Club, of which he was Chairman in 2000. Paul and Sarah still work in the family business, although the dairy, which was sold in 2021, is now under the ownership of Cotteswold Dairy.

John's last few years were difficult for him due to failing mental health, although he remained cheerful and at large in the community right up to September 2021, when he finally had to join the residents at Lynhales Nursing Home in the John Sperry Unit. Sadly he passed away on 17th September 2022, four days before his 82nd birthday.

He was lucky enough to have seven grandchildren, all of whom are either attending or have finished their education at Hereford Cathedral School. It was a life well lived with much happiness and success.

by Paul Matthews





ALAN MOORSE ('DOTTY') LANGUAGE MASTER 1952–63

Much-liked and popular Master (nicknamed 'Dotty'), Housemaster, and Lieutenant in the CCF who took charge of everything to do with signal and was directly responsible for introducing an inter-office telecoms system between No 1 and the Masters' Common Room.

Alan did his Army Service in the ranks of Royal Signals (hence 'Dotty') in the later days of WW2. He was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant into HCS CCF on 19th October 1953, promoted to Lieutenant 20th February 1956 and later was appointed Acting Captain. On 31st August 1953, he transferred to the Duke of York's Royal Military School CCF (this was one of the largest cadet units in the UK) as Lieutenant (Acting Captain). He stayed with the Duke of York's CCF, becoming Contingent Commander in the rank of Acting Lieutenant Colonel. He stepped down as Contingent Commander on 1st November 1975, but continued serving with the CCF until his final retirement on 4th June 1990. He held the Cadet Forces Medal with three clasps and the TA Efficiency Medal. He died in a Tisbury care home on 11th February, aged 97, and was predeceased by his wife Anne.

Photos: (top) taken at HCS CCF Annual Camp Castlemartin 1958 – Capt AJ Moorse, Capt JLT Brookes, Maj HJ Lush, and (above left) Alan Moorse (centre) with Michael Moreton and David Marriott.



MAJOR SIR MICHAEL PARKER KCVO CBE OH 1959

Major Sir Michael Parker, who died on 28th November 2022 aged 81, described himself as "accidental showman" to the late Queen Elizabeth II, having served as her pageant master and merrymaker in chief for more than 40 years.

During military service in the Queen's Own Hussars, he had discovered a flair for putting on plays and organising spectacular pyrotechnic military events and acquired a reputation for attempting – if not always achieving – the impossible. The more 'experts' warned him things could not be done, the more Parker became determined to prove them wrong.

After retiring from the Army in 1971, he became an antiques dealer, but was soon drafted in to organise national events, including the Queen's Silver Jubilee (see OH Magazine 2022 for full feature). Working for many years without an office or any fee, he went on to produce more than 320 events, including the Queen Mother's 80th, 90th and 100th birthdays, the Hyde Park fireworks for the wedding of the Prince of Wales and Lady Diana Spencer, the VE and VJ Day celebrations, and 26 Royal Tournaments.

The pyrotechnic showman who was the Queen's pageant master for jubilees and royal tournaments

He was born Michael John Wilkins on 21st September 1941 to Captain John Wilkins of the Intelligence Corps and Vera, née Parker. His father had abandoned his mother before he was born, and as she suffered from TB and was largely confined to a sanatorium, Michael was cared for by strangers and aunts. He had, by his own account, a miserable childhood, and he later took his mother's maiden name.

At Hereford Cathedral School he joined the CCF and, to avoid returning 'home' during the holidays, volunteered to attend an instructor's course, and became a cadet sergeant. Leaving school, he decided to join the Army and in September 1959 entered Sandhurst, where he cut his teeth as a showman by writing and presenting the Sandhurst Revue. This was a great success, and after joining the Queen's Own Hussars, Parker quickly turned his talents to organising dances for the officers' mess.

At Detmold in 1964, he staged a dance with an 1812 theme in which 'Moscow' was created in the garden of the Colonel's house and burnt as the finale. As the fire took hold, however, the trees began to catch fire, threatening the house itself, which was somewhat singed. The local German fire brigade had to be summoned to douse the flames.

Despite this near disaster, Parker was soon applying his skills to the annual Berlin Tattoo, and for one such event he decided to return to the 1812 theme, almost provoking a diplomatic incident as the Russians objected to their city being burned in effigy. When it was pointed out that this was their victory and a French defeat, the French boycotted the Tattoo.

After postings as Adjutant in Singapore and at the Bergen-Hohne Garrison, Parker decided to resign his commission and to sign out in style at a regimental dance featuring a *son et lumière* performance based on the Battle of Trafalgar, on a small lake behind the officers' mess at Schloss Bredebeck.

Borrowing four assault craft from the Royal Engineers, he had them transformed into ships of the line of Nelson's era, to be manoeuvred by clerks dressed in wetsuits. Cannons made from old beer cans and packed with explosive would fire 'broadsides', and an accelerant of Parker's concoction was poured into the bottoms of the 'ships'.

Everything progressed according to plan until a broadside caused one of the English ships to catch fire. The conflagration spread, and to resounding cheers both the British and French fleet sank because Parker's accelerant mix was too hot and had melted the assault craft hulls.

A board of enquiry ordered that the officers of the Queen's Own Hussars should pay the considerable bill for the damage. The hat was passed round and guests at the dance paid up gladly, declaring it the best party they had ever attended.

After leaving the Army Parker established a profitable antiques business with his aunt Maggie but was called out of retirement to produce the Royal Tournament in 1974. Over the next 25 years he transformed the tournament into one of the most popular events of the year, with plans based on his own intricate working models.

But accidents would happen. At the wedding fireworks for the marriage of Prince Charles to Lady Diana Spencer, Parker attempted to recreate the 1749 Royal fireworks display with sequences reflecting different aspects of the Prince's life, controlled by a mass of cables leading to the control box. Unfortunately, just before the display the King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery rode through the park and sliced through the cables. Although they were repaired, many were connected incorrectly, so that the display bore little relation to the one described in the programme.

"Fortunately, the Queen seemed to think it funny, and turned round from time to time to say, 'Those don't look like violet star bursts to me', or 'Was that a flight of chrysanthemum shells?'"

For the Queen Mother's 100th Birthday Parade in 2000, Parker corralled a huge procession of soldiers and civilians, featuring more than 300 charities she supported, and arranged for members of the Grocers' Company to ride into Horse Guards Parade on camels, to represent Britain's historic links with the spice trade: "Suddenly," he recalled, "the camels spied the expanse of sand, and obviously thought they had somehow been transported home. Two of them went down on their knees, and the others followed suit. The Worshipful Grocers were all

abruptly flung forwards in a flurry of blue velvet, then lurched back again as the camels' back legs folded."

The jamboree to celebrate the Queen's Golden Jubilee in 2002 was Parker's apotheosis. Among other attractions, the programme featured 22,000 performers; a rocket fired up the Mall by the Queen; the Tiller Girls; Concorde and the Red Arrows flying over Buckingham Palace at 1,500 feet; a steel band accompanying the state procession; fireworks ignited on the roof of Buckingham Palace; 5,000 gospel singers and a pop concert featuring Sir Paul McCartney, Sir Elton John and Tom Jones – and the inevitable beacons.

It was "all nicely understated", Parker pronounced, and he was proud afterwards to be presented with a lifetime achievement award for his lifelong advocacy of Spam, the chopped pork and ham delicacy with which, he explained, he fortified himself when things seemed to be going wrong.

Major Sir Michael Parker was appointed MBE in 1968, CVO in 1991 and CBE five years later. His CVO was advanced to KCVO in 2000 following his production of the Royal Military Tattoo at Horse Guards Parade for the Millennium celebrations, and the Queen Mother's birthday pageant.

Late in life, he married his PA, Emma Bagwell Purefoy, who survives him with a stepson, Oliver, a stage manager.

"I have always tried to live by my motto: Never tell people what is supposed to happen, then they won't know when it hasn't," Parker wrote.

Reproduced from the *Daily Telegraph*



A memorial service was held at the Guards Chapel, Wellington Barracks, on 18th April 2023. A number of OHs attended together with Claire Morgan-Jones who represented the Headmaster. Tributes were given by Captain Philip Gay (QOH) and Oliver Purefoy (Michael's stepson).



ALAN EGERTON ('EGE') PARKER HOUSE MASTER AND HISTORY TEACHER 1970–97

Ege Parker was one of the most distinguished and dedicated schoolmasters I have known. As a teacher, his enthusiasm for and knowledge of history shone through his lessons, whether he was teaching juniors or 19th-century British history – Disraeli being his political hero – to A-Level students.

Outside the classroom, the pastoral care of his charges as the first house-master of No 1 and form-master of 1P, was legendary. He became a favourite 'uncle' figure to generations of HCS pupils, many of whom made considerable efforts to keep up with him after they had left the school.

On a personal level, I have every reason to be grateful to my former colleague and close friend. He took over as Head of History at an anxious time; he introduced me to Gladstone's Library at Hawarden, and was a great help in my writing of the school's history; he generously and spontaneously endowed our son Edward's memorial in Hereford Cathedral; he was a steadfast chairman of Coningsby Hospital. And in retirement he also raised well over £100,000 towards the No 1 Fund for former choristers, which was transferred to the Old Herefordian Trust during my term as president of the club. It was the greatest benefaction given to the fund since that of Zimmerman himself.

Alan Egerton Parker, who found out in later life that he was a Yorkshireman, rather than a Lancastrian, by birth – another reason for endearment – will be mourned by many in the school, cathedral and local community. He influenced thousands of lives. This gifted, amiable, gregarious, generous and faithful man has left numerous legacies.

by Howard Tomlinson

Ege used to tell a story about a few of his colleagues at the school Commemoration Service held at the end of the spring term. Dressed in their gowns and hoods, they would process down the side aisle to the west end of the cathedral, walk back down the nave, bow to the altar, peal off to the side and head round to the east end of the cathedral, out of the St John's door and straight into the Spread Eagle for a few pints. Ege was a breed apart and would not partake in such behaviour; his sense of duty, which was evident in many parts of his life, would require him to look after his beloved 1P and perhaps to read the lesson.

But was he totally strait-laced? I would suggest not. One of his former pupils who joined HCS in 1969 tells the story of Ege taking the boarders in Junior House on numerous trips. He was totally committed to their care. Ege liked his classic cars (some more classic than others). Working backwards, he had a Hillman Hunter, a Jag, a Bentley, and before that a rather unsuccessful Skoda. He was most fond of the Bentley. He would take the boarders to Bristol, Bath or London; the Bentley doubled up as the school minibus. After having had a few drinks (the breathalyser was in its infancy), he would always try to touch 100 miles an hour on the return journey, and if he felt tired, he would do the sensible thing... and let the boys each have a turn in driving his Bentley up the M40.

Ege was adopted as an only child to a very loving family in Lytham-St-Annes, Lancashire, shortly before his fourth birthday. His name on his birth certification was Alan, and there was no mention of Egerton as a middle name. His adoptive parents gave him the middle name Egerton, taken from the Earl of Egerton and Tatton who was a distant relative to them. However, he was originally known by them as Alan. Ege came home from school one day at the age of six and announced to his mother and father that he wanted to be called Ege, and the name stayed with him. I think it was his way of moving on and accepting his adoption.

At the age of 13, Ege left his childhood home of Lytham-St-Annes to attend Kingswood School, Bath. Not only was he hugely successful academically, winning his place at University College, Oxford, to read History, but he excelled in music too. His first instrument was the oboe, but he was proficient enough on the piano to play Beethoven's First Piano Concerto with the school orchestra.

After finishing at Oxford, Ege was uncertain about the direction he should take. He started studying for law exams, but in the end, he opted to take a Dip Ed. He accepted a teaching post at the Royal Masonic School, which looked after boys who had lost parents. I am sure that Ege's own experience of having been adopted helped him to connect with the pupils. He was more than avuncular to the boys; he was a father figure, totally devoted to their wellbeing and care. He was a Mr Chips.

Ege was very disappointed when, in 1970, it was announced that the Royal Masonic School was to close. However, he soon had a couple of job offers. He turned down a post at Harrow to accept the job at Hereford Cathedral School, where he was offered the opportunity to set up a Junior Boarding House. He was a totally dedicated housemaster to the choristers and other young boarders. He would invite Sixth Form pupils from School House and Deanery to return as boarders in Junior House to help look after the younger boys.

The fact that he remained in close contact with so many former pupils from both the Royal Masonic School and HCS is testament to the high regard in which he was held and the impression he made on the lives of these pupils. In addition to his roles as a boarding housemaster, history teacher and producer of plays, Ege helped organise numerous school trips including the first ever HCS ski trip in 1971 along with Martin Nicholson. These trips were to become legendary. The two Masters were also responsible for the inaugural Croquet Club in the same year.

At one stage, he was offered the headship at the Junior School, which he turned down as it would have meant giving up his involvement with boarding. During his time in Hereford, he was involved in a voluntary capacity in numerous organisations, including Masonry, both in London and Herefordshire, his No 1 Fund which is currently supporting ex-choristers who would not otherwise be able to remain at the school, Coningsby Hospital and the Friends of Hereford Cathedral. He was a steward at the Three Choirs Festival in charge of running the outside events. Ege's work with these organisations went above and beyond the call of duty.

Ege enjoyed 25 years of retirement and had his special places that he liked to visit: Bath, Malta, Oxford, Stamford, Paris, Florence, Sienna, the Mansion House in London for the Royal Society of St George dinners, the Sutton's for Christmas and the Errington's in France.

Ege used to host dinner parties, and whilst the food itself was not normally the highlight – his legendary venison casserole which evolved over the years to contain prunes, black pudding and kidney beans was endured by many – the warmth and cheerfulness of his hosting made them a delight. Ege's cancer was under control for a few years, but once it became untreatable, the care provided by St Michael's Hospice was unsurpassable. Ege had been part of a group who supported the setting up of St Michael's Hospice in the 1980s. It was a great comfort to him that Dr Clare Scotcher, one of his former pupils, oversaw his care, and he stayed cheerful throughout.

by Richard Croot; excerpt from eulogy at memorial in Hereford Cathedral

In order to mark Ege's time at the School it is planned to refurbish the Entrance Hall and front two rooms of No 1 and for them to be known as the Ege Parker Suite going forward.

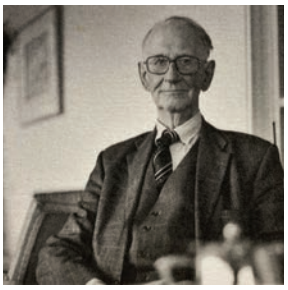
The School is currently raising funds to allow this to happen and the OH Club has pledged its support. If you would like further details please contact Claire Morgan-Jones on 01432 363 590 or email c.morganjones@herefordcs.com.

JEREMY JAMES MARK PONTING
OH 1990

Jeremy Ponting passed away on 13th November 2022, aged 50 years.

CAROLYNE RAYMOND
OH 1986

Carolyne (Joyce) Jones (née Raymond) passed away on 10th July 2023. Carolyne was Deputy Head of School, and Head of House (Cornwall) as well as being Captain of the Hockey 1st XI and U/O in CCF. She studied at Birmingham University before returning to Herefordshire.



ANTHONY JOHN WESTON
OH 1956

Anthony Weston grew up in Hereford. His parents worked long hours in their shop in Commercial Street, but Anthony was, nevertheless, encouraged to entertain his school friends – something to eat and then up to the attic for a game of table tennis or to print an edition of a monthly magazine which he called 'the Sparkler'. He went on to study law at Cambridge and began his working life as a solicitor in Malvern before marrying Rosemary in 1967.

Anthony's Christian faith was extremely important to him and became the inspiration for many of his activities inside and outside of his professional life. He will be remembered for his kindness, his integrity, his unfailing generosity and his humour. His three children, Clive, Shirley and Catriona, brought a lot of joy to the family, although the loss of Clive to cancer at the age of 37 was a time of enormous sorrow.

In 2014, Hereford City Council conferred on him 'The Honorary Freedom of the City of Hereford' in recognition of his many years of voluntary work among disadvantaged people.

Anthony died on 23rd November 2022 aged 84. Well-known for his trademark bowler hats and waistcoat suits, his memory is sure to live on among those he helped personally and professionally.



REAR-ADMIRAL PHILIP WILCOCKS CB DSC BSC
HCS CHAIR OF GOVERNORS 2017–2023

Rear-Admiral Philip Wilcocks, who died on 9th April 2023 aged 69, was one of the Navy's leading warriors during the Falklands War and the first Gulf War. In the months leading up to Operation Granby, the British action in the 1991 Gulf War, Wilcocks, commanding the destroyer *Gloucester*, played a prime role in enforcing the UN embargo, stopping, boarding and searching Iraqi ships. Thereafter, in working up his ship for the possibility of war, Wilcocks demonstrated great drive and fine leadership.

Born on 14th April 1953 in Malaya, where his father, Lieutenant Commander A.F. Wilcocks, was serving, Philip was educated at Oakham and Wallington County Grammar School, before taking a BSc at Cardiff and, in 1971, joining the Navy. While at Dartmouth he won the Queen's Telescope and the Queen's Gold Medal, and his first appointments were to the frigate *Torquay* as navigating officer, followed by command of the fishery protection minesweeper *Stubbington* in 1978. As a newly qualified Principal Warfare Officer or PWO, Wilcocks joined the frigate *Ambuscade*, under Commander Peter Mosse, where during the Falklands War *Ambuscade*'s missile and gunnery teams were kept busy as she escorted convoys into San Carlos Water, landed Special Forces by helicopter, and bombarded enemy positions – on one night firing 228 4.5 in high explosive rounds (6 tonnes) in support of 2nd Battalion the Parachute Regiment's advance on Port Stanley.

Dynamic commander who led actions in the Falklands and Gulf wars

Specialising in anti-air warfare, he became squadron operations officer in the 3rd Destroyer Squadron, which covered the evacuation of Aden in 1986, and subsequently the staff officer to the Flag Officer Sea Training, where he applied the knowledge he had gained in the Falklands War. Promoted to captain in 1995, Wilcocks held senior desk jobs in the MoD, commanded the destroyer *Liverpool* (1998–99), and the Maritime Warfare School at the shore establishment HMS *Collingwood* (2001–03).

On promotion to rear-admiral in 2004 and deputy chief of joint operations at the Permanent Joint Headquarters, he oversaw operations in Iraq and Afghanistan and was the crisis director for the UK's military response to the 2005 tsunami disaster.

Wilcocks radiated self-confidence and is remembered for his wide smile. He was, briefly and in succession, Flag Officer Scotland, Northern England, Northern Ireland, and Flag Officer Reserves, and then Chief of Staff (Capability) to the Commander-in-Chief Fleet, but in a Navy which was shrinking and reorganising itself, there was no further employment for Wilcocks. He was appointed a Companion of the Order of the Bath in 2007 and retired to Herefordshire in 2009. As Governor of Hereford Cathedral School from 2015, and Chair of Governers from 2017 until his passing, he found practical expression for the quiet Christian faith which motivated him.

He married Kym Palmer in 1976; she survives him with their two sons.

Reproduced from the *Daily Telegraph*

DIARY DATES 2023–2025



9 DECEMBER 2023
OH DAY
See insert for details.

13 APRIL 2024
LEAVERS OF 2004 REUNION
In No 1 from 2pm. RSVP to Helen Pearson h.pearson@herefordcs.com.

16 MAY 2024
OH GOLF DAY
Burghill Valley Golf Club.

18 MAY 2024
LEAVERS OF 1984 REUNION
In No 1 from 2pm. RSVP to Helen Pearson h.pearson@herefordcs.com.

23 MAY 2024
OHiL SPRING LUNCH
Date to be confirmed.

15 JUNE 2024
LEAVERS OF 2014 REUNION
In No 1 from 2pm. RSVP to Helen Pearson h.pearson@herefordcs.com.

Photo: Randy Langford (OH 1943), one of King Charles' first birthday Honours List recipients of a British Empire Medal.

GOOD NEWS!

Please do share your results with the Alumni Office — we are always happy to trumpet your successes!

FRASER EVANS (OH 2020)
gained a 2:1 degree with honours in Automotive & Transport Design at Coventry University. Fraser has secured a post with SP1 Design as a Junior Clay Studio Modeller.

ELOISE HICK (OH 2020)
gained a 2:1 in LLB Law from Newcastle University.

KATHERINE LINDLEY (OH 2020)
achieved 1st class honours in Law with the Open University.

OH ENQUIRIES

If you require information about the OH Club, please contact Alumni Officer Helen Pearson at:

Development Office
Hereford Cathedral School
Old Deanery, Cathedral Close
Hereford HR1 2NG
development@herefordcs.com
01432 363 566

Please note that any personal opinions expressed in this publication are not the views of the Editor, the OH Club and Committee, or HCS.

OH Committee Personnel President **Richard Binnersley**, Vice President **Juliette Austen-Chandler**, Secretary **Mark Ellis**, Treasurer **Gill Rivers**, OH Trust **Peter Williams**, Alumni Officer **Helen Pearson**, OH Editor **Julie North**

Design: jessplease.co.uk

Print: Stephens & George Ltd

FSC www.fsc.org MIX Paper from responsible sources FSC® C013417

Brightwells

Est. 1846

Make money from your wine

Entries invited for our Winter Auction Programme

The quickest and most successful route to market is on your doorstep

Free valuation offered for:
Fine Wine, Vintage Port, Champagne, Malt Whisky & Cognac

For more information on buying or selling at auction, please contact:
Paddy Shave: **wine@brightwells.com**



Brookes Bliss

Selling and letting property throughout Herefordshire



Contact Us

01432 343 800

sales@brookesbliss.co.uk

46 Bridge Street, Hereford, HR4 9DG

Experienced **Trusted** **Innovative**