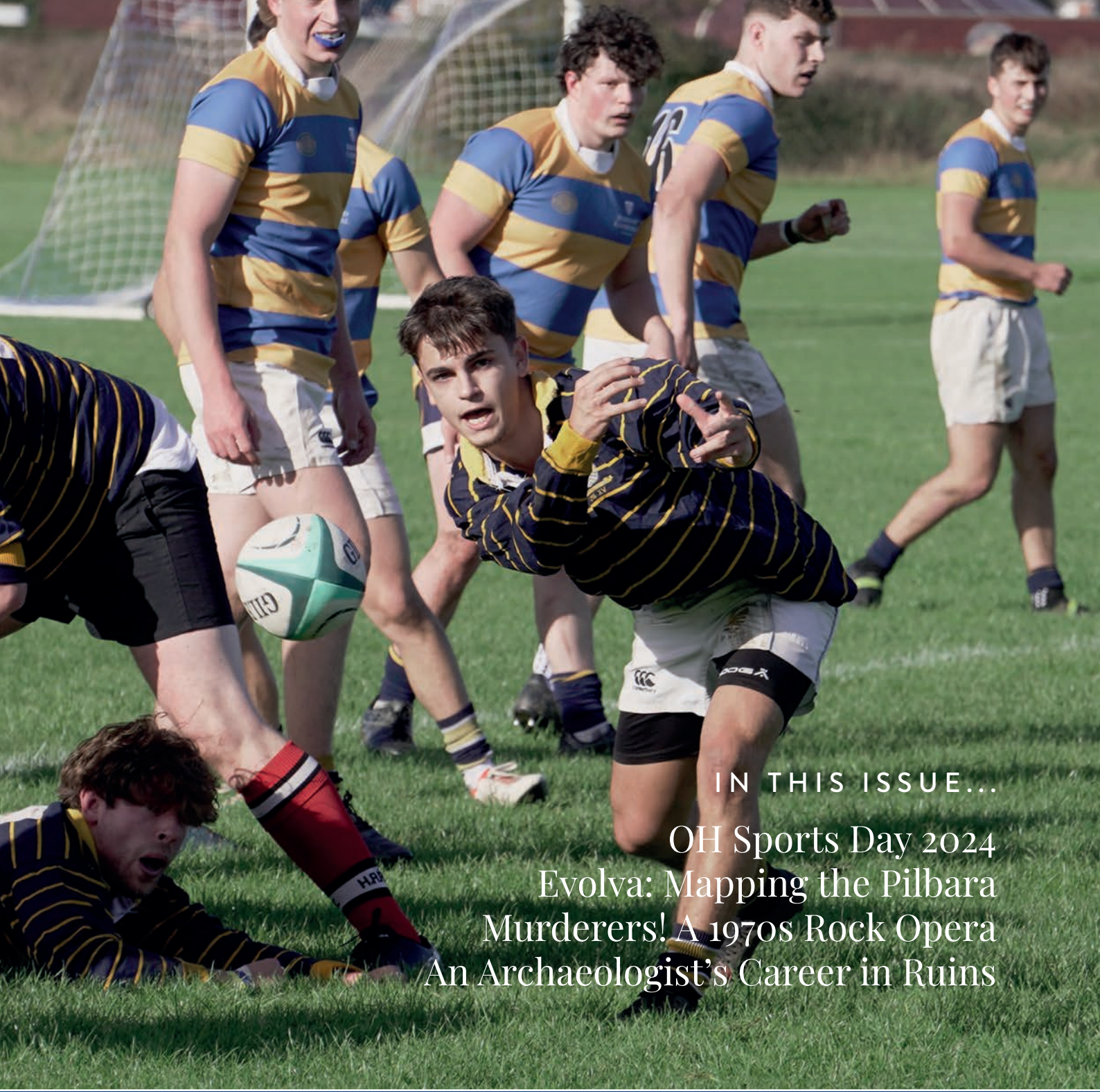


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Evolva: Mapping the Pilbara
Murderers! A 1970s Rock Opera
An Archaeologist's Career in Ruins

HEREFORD CATHEDRAL SCHOOL

OH MAGAZINE 2024

WELCOME



Welcome to the 2024 OH Magazine and I hope all is well with you.

The OH Club has had a very busy year, with plenty of reunions, planning for changes to various parts of the Club, reorganising the way we communicate with you, and supporting the School. The Club does a lot for the Alumni, and the School, alongside excellent support from the Development Office.

At one summer reunion held at HCS, I managed to join the group for a small drink in the Barrels pub in Hereford, after they had enjoyed the incredibly valuable walk around the School estate. And I was asked this question by someone: what is it that the Club actually does?

It was a great question that she asked me. Well, this year it has found employment for OHs; sought out mentors, apprenticeships, travel experiences; brought the Alumni together at multiple events. But a really important matter I told her that she didn't know, is that the Club's CIO Trust runs a significant estate of buildings that the School uses to provide its educational role. And also that we give a lot of bursaries to Sixth Form students.

It takes a lot to run all this, which takes volunteers' time in most cases. So, if you look at the OH or School website occasionally for news or events, see HCS students walking between lessons to their classrooms or hear about someone getting help from an OH, the Club is often behind that, and the Club is nothing without its alumni.

I hope you enjoy reading this lovely magazine and I hope to see you somewhere, soon.

Richard Binnersley
President, Old Herefordians' Club

> "I was asked: what is it that the Club actually does? Well, this year it has found employment for OHs; sought out mentors, apprenticeships and travel experiences; and brought the Alumni together at multiple events..."



Photos © Rebecca Morrant: (front cover) Rugby match and (above) Netball match at OH Sports Day 2024

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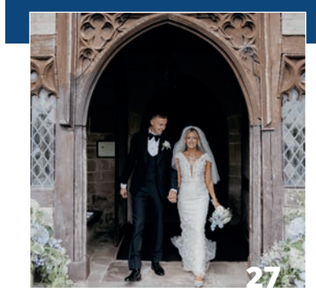




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Our highlights of 2024











MAPPING THE PILBARA

AN EVOLVA ADVENTURE



William Pizii, a recipient of an OH Evolva award, describes his trip to Western Australia to map the geology. The Evolva award, generously funded by Patrick Henchoz, former parent and former Governor, assists current Upper Sixth Form students and Old Herefordians up to the age of 21 with the costs of undertaking voluntary, charitable, conservation or educational work, career related work placements or internships in the UK or abroad.

My academic journey over the last few years has been quite unexpected, as while setting out into Natural Sciences at Downing College, Cambridge, I had thought my future lay in physics. However, my 'spare' choice of earth sciences in the first year turned out to be so much more than I expected. A great synthesis of all the science subjects, with modelling from maths and physics, fossils and life history from biology, and a unique aspect of field trips to see geology and surface processes in person.

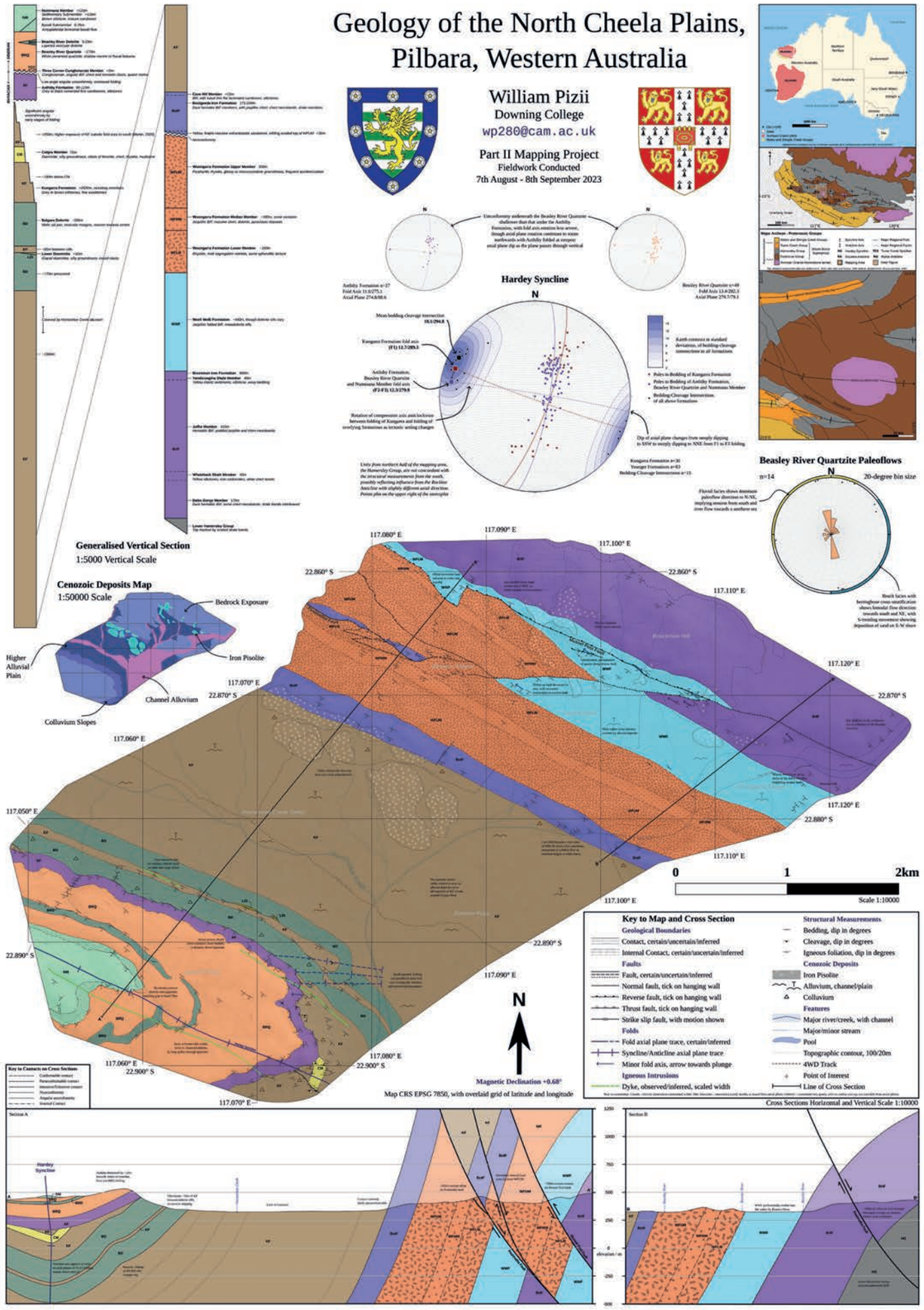
In just the first two years, the subject has taken me all around the UK from Skye to Cornwall, and the promise of a Part II project with freedom to explore anywhere in the world was extremely enticing. After considering many locations including Canada and New Zealand, I decided that an opportunity to see the banded iron formations and Archean geology unique to Western Australia was the best option by far. While the department provided some guidance, we were left on our own to source funding and organise logistics.

The aim for the trip was to gather plenty of data and field observations to build up into a report and map for my Part II dissertation report. I was joined by Pippa and Rosa, long-term mapping partners on every field trip we have been on together.

> "There are many unresolved scientific disputes that we hoped we could solve with closer and more detailed study."

We chose the Pilbara region of Western Australia where, despite extensive prior work, there are many unresolved scientific disputes that we hoped we could solve with closer and more detailed study. Usually field geologists in the area map at scales ten times larger than we did, given the huge scale of the region.

Before we headed out to start fieldwork, we were lucky to be joined by the Heads of regional exploration and their field assistants from the Geological Survey of Western Australia. They helped show us the basics of the rocks around the area, since they were so different to anything found in the UK – not to mention that everything is stained deep red from millions of years rusting on the surface. Armed with their insights, we headed out into the hot winter sun, marching through the aggressively sharp spinifex grass in search of secrets held by the rock outcrops.



Our six-week mapping period, interspersed with rest day drives over to the shops in Tom Price – a nearby mining town – was full on, but we pushed through. The staff at Cheela Plains Station, a former cattle ranch turned campsite where we set up our tent for the six-week stay, were all delightful and helpful, with some having travelled even further than us to end up working on the remote cattle station. Luckily for us they all had great practical skills to help us out when our car ran into problems two days from the end. The weekly burger nights were a chance to meet the varied crowd who passed through the station, from career exploration geologists to touring retirees and families, with many people making a living working around all the remote communities.

Through the time in the field, we found impressive evidence of the mountainous past of the area over two billion years ago, with massive amounts of folding tilting rocks up near vertical, and faults thrusting hundreds of metres. The rocks themselves show a history of violent volcanism, progressing through to a period of ice-house Earth, where huge glaciers at low latitudes deposited a series of tills, much as we see just below the surface in large parts of the UK today. Cyanobacteria, one of the earliest forms of life, are thought to be responsible for the massive banded iron formation deposits observed, which elsewhere in the Pilbara are host to some of the largest iron ore mines in the world.

As fieldwork wrapped up, we headed back inland to Karijini National Park for a night, where spectacular deep gorges cut through the iron formations. While the geology there is the same as where we mapped, the distance from the mountain-building folding in our area meant a much shallower angle of layering – meaning even small streams incise very deep and narrow valleys.





“We found impressive evidence of the mountainous past of the area, with massive folding tilting rocks, and faults thrusting hundreds of metres.”

With time in the red Pilbara coming to an end, we headed back out to the Indian Ocean, to the Ningaloo reef, a UNESCO world heritage site with impressive coastal coral reefs fringing an extensive coastline. Highlights there included snorkelling with loggerhead turtles and a whale shark, and hiking up a limestone valley with many ospreys and rock wallabies. The journey following down the coast brought further geological highlights, including living stromatolites near Shark Bay and footprints of some of the earliest terrestrial life in Kalbarri National Park.

The final few nights were spent in Perth, with a quick day trip to Rottnest Island to see cute little quokkas, and a newfound sense of appreciation for not being a hundred miles from shops!

I am extremely grateful to the OH Evolva award for helping to make this trip possible. This was a truly unique experience and expanded my horizons, both personally and academically.

William Pizii

OH 2021

Photos, this page: *(top) Lookout in the mapping area; (bottom) Karijini National Park*

Facing page: *(clockwise from top left) Quokka at Rottnest Island; William, Pippa and Rosa; emergency notebook repairs; night sky in Karijini; Ningaloo gorges; Dales Gorge, Karijini National Park; down in Hancock Gorge; surveying the landscape; (centre) Trusty car at the station.*





















REUNIONS

WE MEET AGAIN

LEAVERS 1976 TO 1980 REUNION

Saturday 27 April saw around 25 people descend on HCS from all parts of the UK and beyond.

Saturday started with a drinks reception in No. 1 and an address from the Headmaster, Dr Michael Gray, who gave us an insight into how HCS now functions. For those of our vintage, who remembered the school's first computer (a temperamental box about 1 metre in all directions), to hear of current pupils learning using Virtual Reality headsets really was an eye-opener!

We were then kindly given a tour of the school. Some elements were familiar whereas others had changed beyond recognition. The Dining Hall looked familiar, the sports hall certainly didn't.

A trip around the library and classrooms brought the memories and stories pouring out. Discussion abounded as to who was the most accurate teacher with the chalkboard rubber (general consensus of opinion was Mr Skinner). Film nights in Big School, House Assemblies, walking down to Wyeside...











The evening saw us adjourn to The Two Bridges restaurant in Hereford. A tapas-style meal was enjoyed by all, and with wine flowing the reminiscing intensified. It's clearly impracticable to cram 40 plus years of catching up into one day but I think we gave it a good go!

Our sincere thanks to Claire Morgan-Jones and Helen Pearson of the HCS Development Office for all their help with putting the weekend together.

Another get-together again soon? You bet...

Steve Thomas

CLASS OF 1984

The class of 1984 were joined by some of the class of 1986 on a special joint occasion that was a 40-year reunion and also celebrated the life of Raj Prabhakaran, who sadly died in February 2024.

The lawn of Deanery was bathed in sunshine as we chatted together and enjoyed the company of people with whom we had years of shared history and remembered those who we have lost too soon.

Rupert Carr of the legendary parties made an appearance, from France, and we had the pleasure of recalling the snogs, the dancing and the homemade wine. We were able to thank Rupert for providing the class of 1984 with the location for dozens of seminal experiences. David Owens and Lloyd Hession made the trip from the USA for the get-together; Roy Prabhakaran joined us, with his charming daughter Uma, from Brunei. Anna Swindells travelled to the event from far flung New Zealand and Michael Boyle flew in from Austria.

If you have not attended one of your class reunions, I cannot recommend it strongly enough. All those things that were annoying or frightening at school have mellowed and faded and what is left is a joint recollection of growing up. I took the opportunity to apologise to a few people for behaviours that, upon reflection and with maturity, I am not so proud of. The sense of community and solidarity after 40 years of life is hugely comforting.

Lara Latcham





















CLASS OF 1994

When we all went our separate ways in the summer of '94, I don't think we envisaged it taking the best part of a third of a century for many of us to find time for a catch-up. So, it was with a combination of trepidation, excitement and curiosity that we all congregated in the hall of No.1 for our OH Reunion drinks reception and after a few seconds of allowing our eyes to readjust for 30 years of aging (although some people had hardly changed at all), it was just like old times.

I'd been looking forward to catching up with old pals, but the day exceeded all expectations. The fact that so many members of staff made the effort to welcome us back was really touching – clearly, time is a great healer and they had either forgotten, or forgiven, our previous antics!

Drinks in No.1 were followed by a tour of the school culminating in afternoon tea in the dining hall so we could relive memories of lower school discos of the late '80s. The 'unofficial' tour then moved on to 'The Litch' (as someone had inconveniently closed 'The Spread'). It was then time to get down to the serious business of 30 years' catch-up which culminated in a few hardy stragglers being evicted from a late-night watering hole at 3am.

It was such a fun day. Everyone was on top form and there appeared a genuine warmth and excitement to see old friends, relive old memories and plan new escapades. We all promised not to leave it another 30 years for the next reunion.

Chris Stephens

CLASS OF 2004

A cold April sun shone on the 2004 leavers when we got together for a lovely afternoon reminiscing and catching up on the past 20 years. It was great to see familiar teachers, Dr Tomlinson and Mr Rawlinson among others. We enjoyed viewing Room O with Mr Jackson, as his first form class made our return as part of this cohort, and remarked on how many of the posters remained the same 27 years later! Thanks to those who made it possible for Mary Lawrence to be there, remembered by many of us for her kindness as a key support in our school career.

More than 20 of the year group made it to school, with Matt Lowe flying in from Vietnam the furthest travelled. The OHs present represented a wide spectrum, as we are now teachers, nuclear physicists, physiotherapists, accountants, joiners, entrepreneurs and technologists, to name a few. Thanks to the current headmaster and the development team for organising such a wonderful event. We look forward to the next reunion in 10 years' time.

Chris Cullen



CLASS OF 2014

On a sunny morning in June, the 2014 class of OH leavers gathered in the lobby of Number One. Seeing so many familiar faces in a familiar setting set our nostalgia racing as everyone started frantically updating each other with what each of us has been up to for the last 10 years (yikes).

We then set off down memory lane with a guided tour of the school buildings. It was fascinating to see how much the school has changed over the decade, and how some things, such as Mr Jackson's classroom, have stayed reassuringly familiar. A huge thank you to Helen Pearson and the OH team for organising such a special day and giving us the opportunity to reconnect and share lifelong memories.

Alfie Davies

"The fact that so many members of staff made the effort to welcome us back was really touching – clearly, time is a great healer and they had either forgotten, or forgiven, our previous antics!"



CLASS OF 2023

Dr Gray welcomed back Year 13 leavers of 2023. One year on since leaving HCS, they have travelled the world or started university with courses ranging from Publishing and Creative Writing to Veterinary Medicine and Aerospace Engineering in locations spanning the UK, from St Andrews to Plymouth.

"A huge thank you to the OH team for organising such a special day and giving us the opportunity to reconnect and share lifelong memories."



OLD HEREFORDIANS *in* LONDON

OHiL was started in April 2003 by two former Hereford Cathedral choristers who had met up at the Annual OH London Dinner, staged at the East India Club in St James's Square, SW1. It was the first time they had seen one another after a gap of 40+ years since leaving HCS.

They resolved to meet up again in a much less formal setting and to involve as many more OHs as possible. So it was that in the summer of 2003 an inaugural gathering took place in a pub in Wimbledon, SW11. A further event was staged in the autumn of that year at a Young's ale house, this time in the Square Mile. Well – our idea of organising casual meetings in central London pubs grew in popularity.

Re: Luncheons

After ten years holding evening meetings in the City, plus regular attendance at the customary OH London Dinner, it was decided to organise buffet lunches. Known as Doggett's Coat & Badge, alongside the Thames, this Nicholsons riverside establishment has become our regular venue ever since.

A new start with fresh ideas?

The time has now come for us to stand aside as we look forward to encouraging one or more younger OHs to take over the running of these popular reunions – see advert, below right, for more information.







Photos: (inset) Three former School House reprobates – Tim Pringle, Clive Rees and John (Lenny) Pound; (top to bottom) Clive Rees (left) discussing rugby tactics; nine Old Herefordians; two former Deanery and School House rugby contestants.

OHiL 2024 REUNION



A total of 16 people attended OHiL's usual spring lunchtime event. Guests included Claire Morgan-Jones and Helen Pearson from the HCS Development Office as well as OHs from Devon, Sussex, Shropshire, East Anglia, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire.

As with the previous reunion in October 2023, this particular event was conducted on a casual basis, which meant that people could arrive and leave at will. One OH (who only left HCS in 2005) found time to take an extended lunch-break from his workplace across the Thames. It is hoped that even more younger London-based OHs might consider taking part in these 'gatherings' and thus treat the event as a means of catching up with their former Cathedral School contemporaries.

Peter Fairman-Bourn

Photo: Duncan Pierce makes an announcement about his appearance on BBC1's Antiques Road Show.



WANTED! VOLUNTEERS

Can you spare the time to organise casual reunions on behalf of our lively OH alumni sub-group in central London?

To find out what is involved, please contact Peter Fairman-Bourn on admin@ohil.org.uk.

OH NEWS

ANT STONES



Theatre director Ant Stones (OH 1995–2002) has left the world of Shakespeare to write and direct plays in Hereford.

Stones, who grew up in Burley Gate before training as a theatre director and playwright in London, directed plays by Hereford-based writers in his latest production, *The Word on the Street*.

On Saturday 29th June and Saturday 6th July, seven plays were performed in secret spots on the streets of Hereford city. The stories told surprisingly true and unknown tales about Hereford's city and people. Stones is Feral Productions' new Associate Artist and says *The Word on the Street* is a celebration of plays for the people of Hereford by the people of Hereford.

"I'm really proud of Hereford. For a small place it's got so much going for it and I wanted to celebrate the city and its people," said Ant. "*The Word on The Street* is important to me as so many local people have been involved in its creation."

He added: We've been lucky enough to involve several great venues in Hereford city centre, and the stories that their staff have given us are a wonderful mix of the everyday and the totally bizarre."

Ant Stones graduated in English & Theatre from Warwick University before completing his Masters in Theatre Directing at Birkbeck, London.

Photo (above): Ant with The Word on The Street cast and writer.



DUKE OF EDINBURGH GOLD AWARD



Congratulations to all OHs who received their Gold Duke of Edinburgh Awards at Buckingham Palace this summer.

Photos: (inset left) Sophie Collins (OH 2022, on the left) and Summer Mann (OH 2022, on the right)

(Clockwise from top left) India (OH 2022) and Ruben Hussey (OH 2018); Liv Andersson (OH 2022); James Smith (OH 2020); Ben Papworth (OH 2021); Pelham Giddens (OH 2019); Harry Lloyd (OH 2023)



CLAIRE MORGAN-JONES RETIRES

Claire Morgan-Jones retired as Development Director in July 2024. Most of the alumni don't know what goes on behind the scenes, until they have contact with or from the office.

OH President Richard Binnersley said: "I know that Claire will be difficult to replace. On behalf of all Old Herefordians and those of us here, I would like to wish her plenty of enjoyment in whatever project comes her way next and present her with this token of our gratitude for her service to the Club."

Photo: Claire Morgan-Jones and OH President Richard Binnersley.



OH GOLF DAY



We had a good day on 16th May 2024 at Burghill Valley Golf Club. The weather was good, the course in good condition and the clubhouse staff looked after us well.

I have provisionally booked Thursday 15th May 2025 for our 22nd meeting and I hope you are able to join me. Please do let me know by email on andrewbsinger@icloud.com.

Thank you to those who played this year, to Paul Morris and Richard Buckeridge who played for the first time, to Clive Potter who joined us after an absence of a few years and to Andrew Williams who flew in from Saudi especially to play – it is good to know that the HCS education helped us sort out the priorities in life!

Andrew Singer

Photo (left to right): Back row: Stephen Williams, Howard Tomlinson and Nigel Austin. Middle row: Andrew Singer, Powell Price, John Oldman, Tim Dowse and Paul Morris. Front row: Angus Craig, Jack Beach, Ray Harris and Richard Buckeridge. Missing from photo: Andrew Williams and Clive Potter.

BURGHILL VALLEY GOLF CLUB

GOLF · RESTAURANT · BAR

01432 760456 WWW.BVGC.CO.UK

OH GOLF DAY

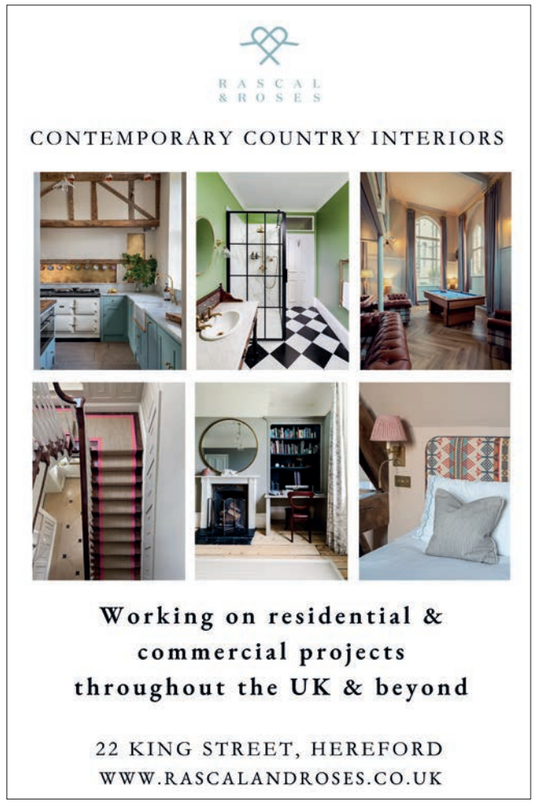
Thursday 15th May 2025

Bacon rolls and coffee from 11am followed by a round of golf and a two-course meal

To express an interest please email:

andrewbsinger@icloud.com or **h.pearson@herefordcs.com**





SCHOOL NEWS



EGE PARKER SUITE

With your help, the financial target needed to undertake the Number One project in memory and honour of Ege Parker, to be named the Ege Parker Suite, was reached.

Work is well underway on the renovation of the entrance hall and beautiful side rooms, including renovation of the elm floorboards and redecoration. The spaces are now lighter, brighter and more welcoming. With the professional help of Verity Coleman (OH 2000) we have an interior design worthy of the spaces, and the furniture and soft furnishings have started to arrive. The mood boards give a flavour of what donors can expect when they are welcomed to the opening of the new suite on OH Day on Saturday 7th December 2024.

A core tenet of our plans is a mural timeline to decorate the walls of the Entrance Hall, showing the School's place in history from the foundation of the Cathedral in the seventh century and onwards as we look towards the second half of the twenty-first century.

Images (top and right): Designer visualisations of the suite.







GAMLEN SILVER



Hereford Cathedral Junior School (formerly Hereford Cathedral Preparatory School) was delighted to receive back a leaving present that was gifted to its inaugural headteacher, Miss Gamlen, on her retirement in 1943.

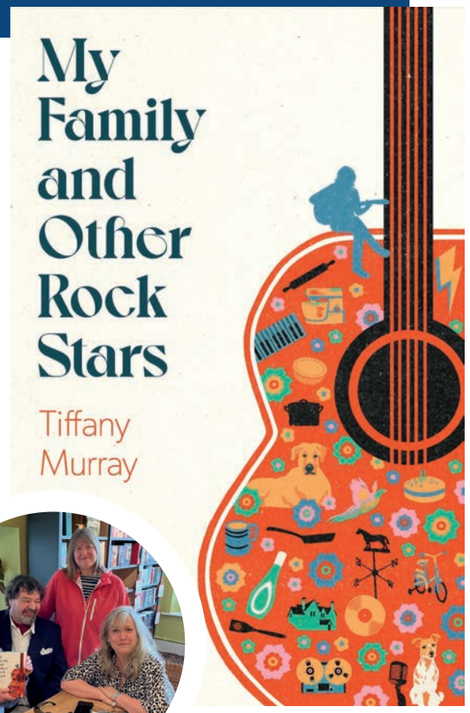
Miss Gamlen taught on the ground floor of No.28, and lived above. She led the school through the 1930s and into the war years. Upon her retirement she was presented with a silver tea service, such was the high esteem in which 'Ma Gam' was held. Her great-nephew, Phil Gamlen, contacted the school to say he wished to return it to the school as a treasured piece of its history.



Photo: (above) Linda Gamlen's great-nephew, Phil Gamlen, with Helen Hoffman (head of HCS junior school); (below) the Gamlen silver.

BOOKSHELF
PUBLICATIONS BY OHS

TIFFANY MURRAY



Tiffany Murray (OH 1986) has been touring far and wide around the launch of her first memoir, *My Family and Other Rock Stars*, which was published in May 2024. Tiffany was involved in Hay Festival's Writers at Work programme and appeared in a few panels at this year's spring festival alongside other major literary stars, as well as launching her latest work.

In a small corner of a field in Wales, Tiffany Murray is hiding with Boggle the dog, dreaming of her mum's moussaka, blackberry and apple crumble, and, if she's lucky, ice-cold lemonade. A sheep bleats. The smell of hay tickles her nose. The twang of a guitar and crack of a snare carry on the breeze.

It's the late 1970s and Tiff lives with her mum, Joan, at Rockfield, the iconic recording studios. This place of legend, where some of the most famous rock albums of all time were recorded, is the background to a freewheeling, ever-changing whirlwind of a childhood. Tiff's days are spent running around the farm, making friends with local wildlife and helping out with the endless array of dishes her mum creates to keep the bands fed. She's looking for a dog, she's looking for a father; but the one constant throughout is her and Joan, building an unconventional family in the most unlikely of locations.

"In a small corner of a field in Wales, Tiffany Murray is hiding with Boggle the dog, dreaming of her mum's moussaka..."

My Family and Other Rock Stars is Tiff's remarkable, truly unique story of growing up in a rural idyll, of Cordon Bleu cookery and of a childhood where the chances of bumping into Freddie Mercury playing piano, or a group of Hell's Angels turning up to record for Lemmy, or even the hope of David Bowie appearing, were as normal as hopscotch and homework.

Tiffany Murray's writing has appeared in *Granta*, the *Guardian*, the *Telegraph*, *Sunday Times Style*, *GQ* and *Independent on Sunday* and has featured on BBC Radio 4. Her novels, *Diamond Star Halo*, *Happy Accidents* and *Sugar Hall*, have variously been shortlisted for the Wodehouse Bollinger Prize and received the Roger Deakin Award for nature writing. Tiffany has been a Hay Festival Fiction Fellow, a Fulbright scholar, and a Senior Lecturer, and she currently lives in a forest. *My Family and Other Rock Stars* is her first memoir.

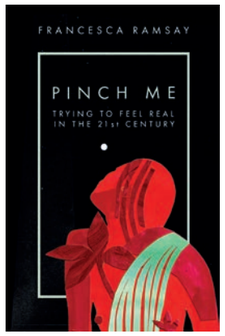
Photo: Lara Latcham (left), Dan Barrett, Liz Rhodes and Tiffany Murray at North Books, Hay-on-Wye.





Francesca Ramsay (OH 2006) is a writer and art historian based in Bristol. She has recently published her first two books.

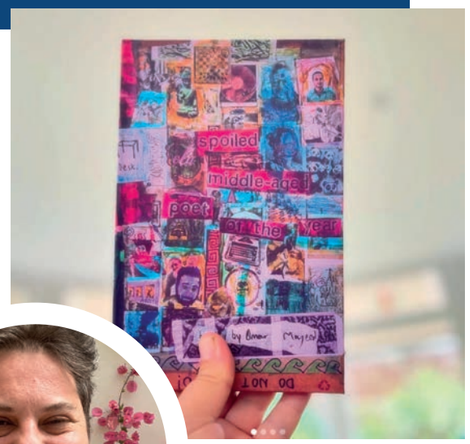
Intimate, impassioned and full of humour, *Pinch Me: Trying to Feel Real in the 21st Century* (Ortac Press) follows her own far-reaching journey in search of answers to one of life's most complex and essential questions: What does it mean to feel real?



Tackling this ancient subject through a contemporary lens, *Pinch Me* is a raw, lyrical reflection on finding connection with oneself, one another and the modern world. Ramsay investigates what it is to experience reality, the reasons so many of us are feeling the lack of it today, and crucially, how we might be able to get it back.

Wilfred Avery and the Unpredictable Image (Unicorn Publishing Group) is the first monograph written on the post-war artist. Wilfred was a truly fascinating artist. Really only tackling two subjects in his career – landscape and the male body – his work developed from an interest in Jungian psychoanalysis and an exploration (and acceptance) of his own sexuality. By the end of his life – one led with a rare and intense creative focus – he had unified these two chosen subjects into one compelling whole.

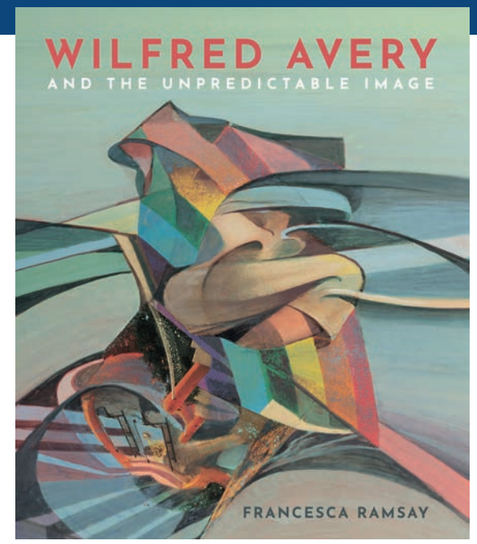
OMAR MAJEED





Omar Majeed (OH 2002) was born in Crewe and grew up in Hereford. He is the creator of Desk Publishing and author of scores of zines and five books.

FRANCESCA RAMSAY



Wilfred's work is now garnering long-awaited and well-deserved interest by public institutions and private collectors alike. It can be found in institutions including Museums Sheffield, RAMM Exeter, The Hepworth Wakefield and Towner Eastbourne. The monograph was launched alongside an exhibition of the same name, curated by Francesca and on show at the Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon earlier this year.

His books include the pseudonymously penned transgressive detective story *Dark* (currently out of print), his first collection of poetry *We r all one, we always win*, evocative and abstract novel *A Town Like This Needs a Holiday*, his gonzo take on the choose-your-own-adventure format *Last Milk-float Out of Dullsville*, and his most recent collection of poetry *Spoiled Middle-aged Poet of the Year*.

Writing and designing the school paper during his time at HCS was the beginning of a life of DIY publishing. He won the Foyles Young Poet of the Year in 2002, as selected by Matthew Sweeney, but mental illness pulled him away from a safe career in architecture into the world of art, music and writing.

He went to Hereford Art College to study photography and found a new lease of life among fellow artists and musicians. After an abortive stint studying literature and journalism at Kingston University, Omar went on to study Graphic Design where he developed his passion for making zines and books and enjoyed the benefits of the nearby capital. He returned to Hereford and built up his portfolio before completing a Masters in Fine Art. He is working on his sixth novel, *Some People*.





















LETTERS

OLD HEREFORDIANS WRITE IN

MY CAREER IN RUINS

As I sit in my library, tweed-clad, brandy and soda ameliorating the aches and pains and imaginary pipe smoke scenting the air, my mind drifts to how it all began...

My mother recalls that, at the age of six, I told her I didn't know whether to be an actor or an archaeologist. Anyone who recalls my Dennis in the school production of *As You Like It* will agree I made the right choice. So it was, during the Easter holidays of 1983, in an effort to enhance my UCCA form, I found myself on my first excavation, digging up Romans on the shores of Poole harbour. The weather was good, the tent tolerable, the pub unconcerned as to my exact age. The people were distinctly odd and I felt at home.

And so, to the mystification of Mr Rhodes and shortly after being expelled by my own godfather, it was off to Sheffield University and a portacabin behind the History department to read Prehistory and Archaeology. In those days you didn't need a degree to get a start in the profession, however the beer, tobacco and poverty was good training with a few lectures thrown in for good measure. Taking a year out, I learned much of the practicalities by joining one of Thatcher's job creation schemes: dole plus a tenner digging me into, and her out of, a hole.

I sailed through my interview ("You're up against two chicken stranglers from Sun Valley, shall we find you some boots and a trowel?") To say this was a mixed group is an understatement; the police came and arrested X on site, while Y was to become head buildings bloke at English Heritage. When I took a break to go and dig up a neolithic settlement on Orkney, the wee scamps put medieval bricks in the bottom of my rucksack and I didn't twig until Glasgow.

After a few alarums I was issued my shiny new degree and it was time for, gulp, a job. It is at this point I'd better explain a little of how archaeology actually works as it is very unlike what most people imagine. Archaeologists, like Eliot's cats, have three different names.

>> Academic. Lecturers et al (Boffins). They have specialisms and cogitate the wider implications. Teaching the next generation, they do some research digs with hormonally challenged students.

>> Planning. Local government (County Mounties). Publicly funded to keep an eye on 'heritage assets'. They maintain records of known sites and add to them. Most importantly they advise on the likely impact of planning proposals and impose conditions on works. Rarely dig anything.

>> Commercial (Dirt Monkeys). The vast majority of archaeological work. If your lovely development proposal is 'contaminated' by history (see Planning) you will have to pay to have it 'mitigated'. This can take many forms but will usually involve over-qualified scruffs poking about in archives and mud.

This is all very broad, and most of us try to keep our two feet in all three camps. I've nipped back to various universities over the years and given advice to landowners, developers and local authorities. It is not a job for those desiring a static base; the sites don't come to you. Aside from one-off jobs my British bases have included Edinburgh, Aberaeron, Canterbury and back to Hereford. That's the commercial side. Research digs have seen me carousing over most of the near east (Sudan, Bahrain, Lebanon, Kuwait, UAE, Qatar, Iraq). Have trowel, will travel.

The desk-based stuff tends to become the bread and butter with seniority and physical knackeredness. Want a new development? Somebody has to trawl the records. I spent some time consulting for the Cathedral before the latest revamp of the Close (some burials were only 200mm below the surface!)

It is worth remembering that it is only public interest that protects our heritage from the bulldozers, hence I tend to shudder at proposals to 'cut red tape' in planning. If you love history and archaeology and think it matters, shout about it! I also spend far too much of my time online, arguing with the pseudo-archaeology crowd (all that Graham Hancock et al lost tech, Atlantis, aliens nonsense).

Let's not pretend it is all excitement. I've found a Saxon era sword at the Cathedral; I've also put 89 50m evaluation trenches into a former sewage works in Derbyshire and found nothing. But I have some excellent war stories. House arrest in Sudan (mostly drinking tea with the police chief); threatened with deportation from Kuwait (best not explained); wild times in the Bekaa valley.

So, would I recommend archaeology as a career? Absolutely! It's the most fun you can have.

Dan Barrett (OH 1984)



GEORGIA & LINDA

Georgia Hopkinson (née Griffiths, OH 1987) met up with former Head of Geography teacher Linda Miles at her annual open gardens event at Harewood End. The two have maintained a lifelong friendship since Georgia left school and Linda is a favourite with former students at OH reunions.

ANDREW HANCORN

The photo below left is of seventeen of us outside School House. I think we were all members of Room X, a senior common room, on the corner, under Pete Skinner's study.

The photo below right is of five of us, from left to right in the pic: me (Andrew Hancorn), Roger Rowlands, 'George' Washington, 'Sid' Singer and Jim Beach, at Hereford railway station, about to travel up to Snowdonia to do our Duke of Edinburgh Gold award expedition. I think both these events would have been spring 1963.

Andrew Hancorn (OH 1963)





REMEMBERING DOTTY MORSE

I was sad to learn of the death of Alan ('Dotty') Morse, but at 97 he clearly had a better 'innings' than most of us can hope to aspire to. It strikes me in reading the accounts provided that much is made of achievements while comparatively little is said of character.

I remember 'Dotty' Morse as the teacher who taught me French on a Saturday morning. He was an able man, but more importantly a man of humour, a teacher with an energy and drive to engage children in learning and the capacity to do it. We knew about his passion for trains and would do all that we could to divert his attention away from French and on to railways so that we did not spend our time focusing on French. He would indulge us with good humour and then focus our minds on the lesson that he had carefully planned without us noticing the transition. That was the quality of the man. He enjoyed teaching and he liked his students.

> "That was the quality of the man. He enjoyed teaching and he liked his students."



Curiosity and creativity are not developed by a check list of things to do. The first response in any learning situation is an emotional response and teachers like Dotty knew that far better than those who promote today's learning formulas. Successive Government ministers still don't appear to understand what good and great teachers do, more's the pity.

It is always interesting to see what students from Hereford Cathedral School have gone on to achieve. So much of it, though, is down to character and resilience and that you cannot quantify or place so easily on a certificate. We tend to assess what we can easily identify and do not attribute value to the more important things that a school such as Hereford Cathedral School can, and no doubt does, provide nowadays. The photographs in the OH Magazine hint at what some of those things are: the ability to work and play, to combine their efforts to make the team more than the sum of the parts, to become life-long learners and developers of self and others and enjoy a productive life. Try putting that on a certificate! Mine from HCS would read "Learned personal survival skills and resilience."

> "We knew about his passion for trains and would do all that we could to divert his attention away from French and on to railways."

Sometimes a teacher or a member of the clergy can provide the means of inspiration to last a lifetime and such an inspiration can happen in an instant. For me, it happened at a Cathedral Choristers' annual cricket match. I had begun at HCS a year early at age 10 because Dr Melville Cook, who was Organist and Master of Choristers, invited me into the choir early and I had passed the Common Entrance exam at 9.

With match scores virtually level, I dropped a catch on the boundary. After the match, Dean Hedley Burrows took me aside. He told me that my attempt to make the catch was remarkable and no other boy would even have attempted it. He would tell me for the next three years up to his retirement that I would play cricket professionally. Bishop Mark (Hodson) similarly became my mentor and friend, acting as my referee for my first post in teaching. I didn't succeed at cricket, but I did become an athlete and competed for the AAA at international level. It was that encouragement and the drive my experience at Hereford Cathedral inspired that helped me to succeed. Perhaps 'Dotty' Morse provided that sort of inspiration for others. I hope so.

Howard Davies (OH 1975)

Photo: Mr & Mrs Morse with John Scally



MEDICAL MILES

After school Miles headed to Southampton Medical School, following which he spent his junior doctor years working at Salisbury, Dorchester and Weymouth (1992–1993). A year out spent back-packing around the world led him to marry Angela from Marlborough, a fellow medic.

He started work in anaesthetics in Poole and Bournemouth in 1994 and then Nottingham in 1995 before their first child arrived. A return to university led to a Masters degree in medical education with later work as consultant anaesthetist in Swindon, Coventry and Rugby.

A move to the Cayman Islands in 2002 preceded a longer term move to New Zealand – Whangarei, where child number four arrived. The couple now have four grandchildren with one more on the way, but Miles still finds time to train for his track and field events.

After breaking multiple records at the recent New Zealand Indoor Track and Field Championships at 55, Miles bagged six medals: five gold and a silver including shot put, sprints, long jump and hurdles.

He said: "The last time I did sport was in school. It feels pretty good. Initially, it was difficult, but I am getting better."

Despite it being his first time at shot put, he managed to place second and walked away with a silver medal. He said the healthy lifestyle was something he promoted as a doctor and used YouTube videos to better his technique. "I train twice a week in the evening. It's a bit dark and cold, but I get down to the track and follow my online training."

Miles Holt (OH 1987)

Photo: Miles with his six medals.

MUSICAL DELIGHTS

When I retired from HCS, we decided to move to the south east, to be nearer our family, and we have so enjoyed the opportunities we have had, particularly attending musical happenings in London.

I am writing this because I have been genuinely amazed about the wealth of OH musical talent that we have found there, and find it difficult to believe that such a relatively small, unpretentious, non-specialist, not well endowed (so unable to award generous music scholarships) school has produced such an array of excellence.

If I list people, I am bound to leave someone out. Apologies! Don't be modest. Let us know what you are up to. Here are a few: I can go along to Westminster Abbey and hear Robert MacDonald in the magnificent choir there. I could recently go to Holland Park Opera, and hear Ruairi Bowen and Anthony Gregory in *Acis and Galatea*, to Covent Garden to hear Anthony, and spot Eleanor Briggs in the Chorus; to English National Opera (with Lucy Zammit) and hear Ruairi as a soloist in *Iolanthe* (and see Nathan Vale in the Chorus), I can go to a King's Singers concert and hear Patrick Dunachie, or to Ronnie Scott's (and many other venues) and hear his brother Liam, sometimes with my own son, Tom, playing alongside. Tom has also been playing in smash hit West End musicals *Hello Dolly*, *Guys and Dolls* and *Kiss me Kate* over the summer.

> "I have been genuinely amazed about the wealth of OH musical talent... that such a relatively small, unpretentious, non-specialist school has produced such an array of excellence."

I must also say what a thrill it is to have heard the HCS Chapel Choir and the Hereford Cathedral Choir singing in London recently. I don't even have to go to London! Nearer home is the Stour Music Festival (festival director Robert Hollingworth), Jonathan Arnold sings regularly in our local cathedral (Canterbury) choir (where at one time, Tim Noon and John Robinson dominated the organ loft and are now both running their own cathedrals) and to Glyndebourne (if I could afford it!) where Rachel Roper and Jo Moore are both singing in the Chorus. I see that Helena Moore has been singing at the Kings Cross Summer Sounds Festival and that Eleanor Briggs will be a soloist at the Royal Festival Hall early next year. The list could go on... Bravo HCS!

John Williams (Director of Music, 1985–2006)



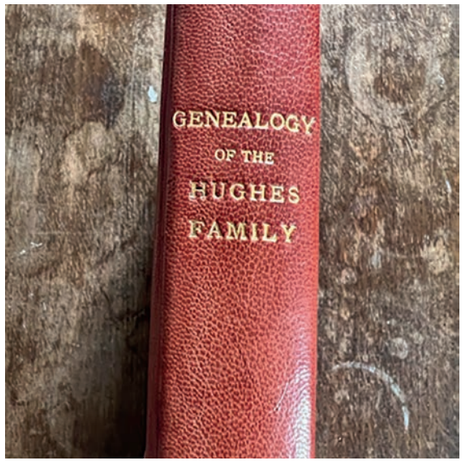
FAMILY HISTORY

I have been interested in my family history since my early twenties and after marrying became interested in my wife's family history too.

In late summer 2022 I noticed someone had posted what looked like details of part of my wife's Hughes family history on the Ancestry site. It turned out that the person posting had been trying to find the history's owner as her husband was the manager of a municipal tip in Harlech and had noticed the book when it was dumped c.1996 and rescued it. She kindly forwarded the book to me, which was really fascinating.

I appeared on *Antiques Roadshow* which was filmed in Cardiff because of the Welsh connection, although the piece didn't air until Easter this year.

The book was compiled over about ten years (1878–1888) in his spare time by a solicitor named Arthur Hughes and contains pedigrees dating to pre-1400 and some dating to before 1000.





Arthur's grandson Richard (an author) lived for many years near Harlech until his death in 1976 and presumably the book was put on the tip by accident. Remarkably it was found and saved by the tip manager, and the rest is history.

The book will now, I hope, be treasured by my children and grandchildren.

Duncan Pierce (OH 1962)

Photo: Genealogy of the Hughes Family; three inside page spreads from the Genealogy; Duncan taking part in Antiques Roadshow.





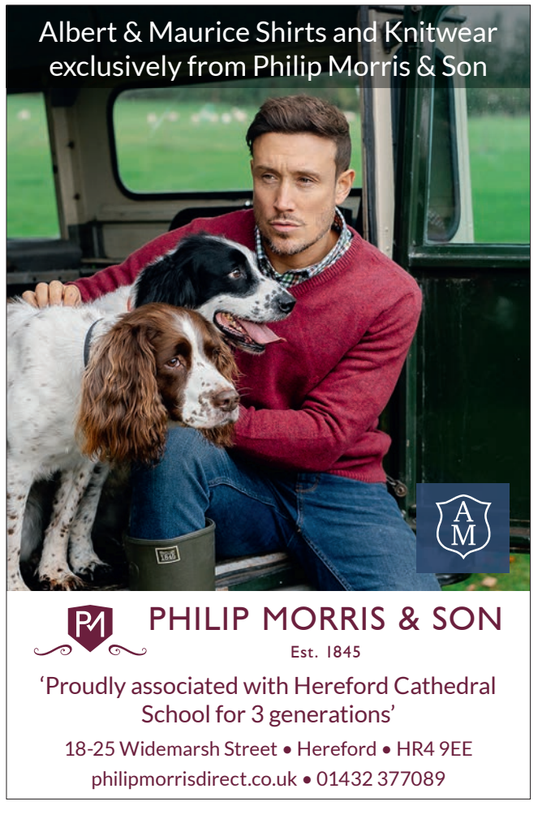


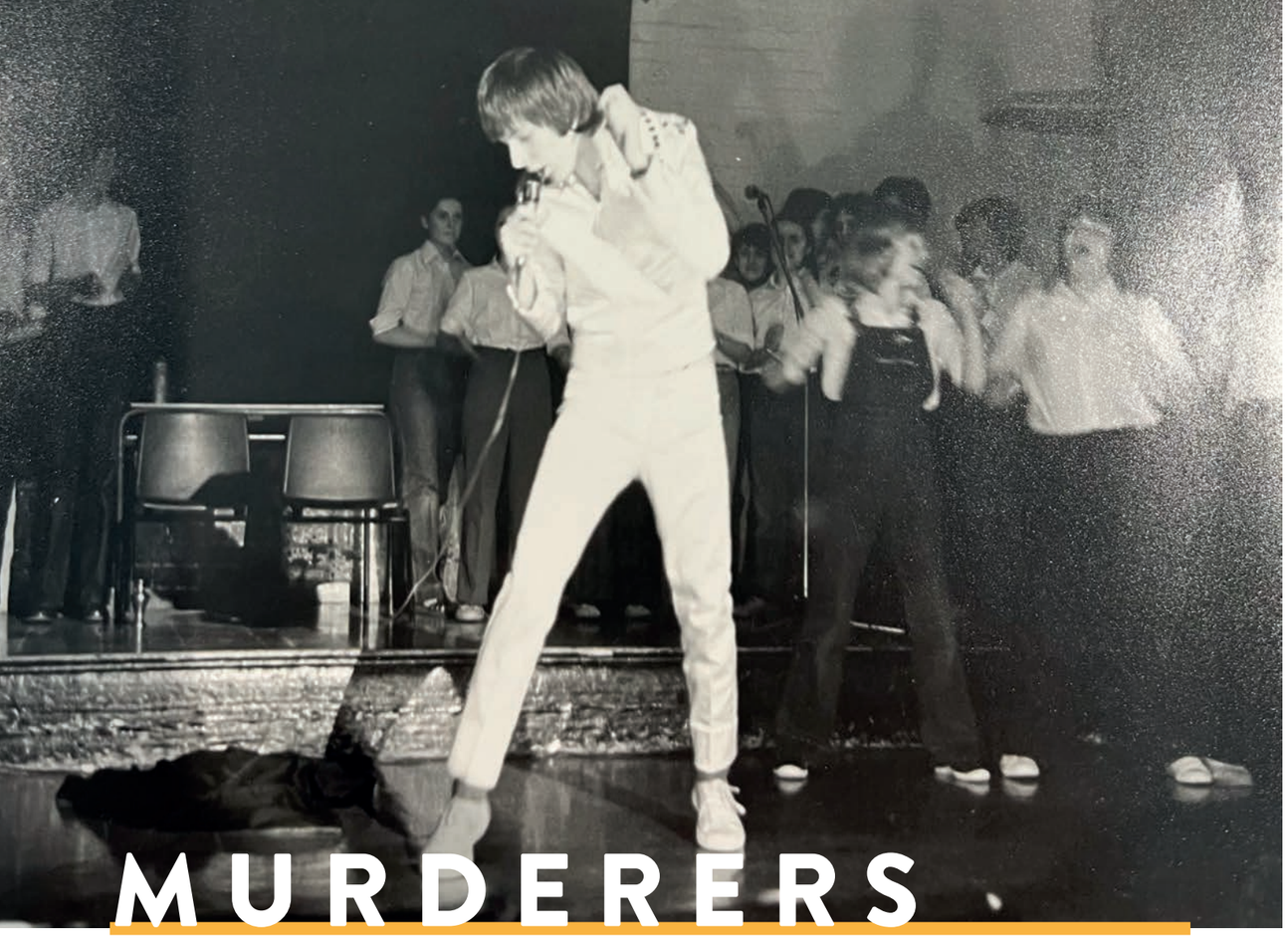
SERVING AND EX-SERVING OHS

Many of you will, I hope, remember me as your SSI at HCS, especially during the years from 1990 to 2010. I bumped into Jake Lightowler OH recently at a wreath-laying ceremony in Hereford and after the event thought how nice it would be to organise some sort of relaxed social gathering for us all to catch up and swap stories. More important for me, I suppose, as the years tick by unbated with my old bones also creaking more as each year passes. Not forgetting also the dreaded memory fade which happens to us all as we slowly age.

Anyway, any of you out there interested a relaxed social gathering to be held in Hereford (venue TBD) please feel free to contact me via my email address: templarmjm@yahoo.co.uk. This applies to all OHs who have served, whether in the Royal Navy, Royal Marines, Army, Air Force or Reserve Forces. Commissioned or Direct Entrant matters not one iota, just your stories and experiences. I look forward to hearing from you and hope we can put something together for early in 2025, or perhaps sooner.

Mike Moffatt





MURDERERS

A CONTESTED SPACE

Michael Walling is a director of theatre, opera, film and festival. He is Artistic Director of Border Crossings and Visiting Professor at Rose Bruford College. Here he reminisces about *Murderers*, a rock opera telling the story of Jesus' death and resurrection. The text and stage direction was by Michael Walling, with music by Mark Richards, Gary Withers and Chris McCall. It was performed in All Saints' Church in 1979.

Murderers was never really a 'school play' in the conventional teacher-led sense: it was something that a group of sixth formers wanted to do, for which they negotiated a space within the artistic, structural and spiritual frameworks of the school and the city.

It was a complex business, and it began to teach me how the creative impulses of a theatre-maker must always operate in dialogue with contextual space. It was the first full-length piece I ever directed, and for all its roughness and naivety, it brought into play many of the key themes that have been woven through my subsequent career in theatre.

The teacher who had the most direct influence on *Murderers* was actually the Chaplain, Father William Ledwich. Like Colin Gray, who would soon give a huge boost to drama at HCS, he was new in post, and keen to bring fresh ideas and perspectives to the school. I was in the first sixth form group to be taught by each of them, and found surprising synergies in their teaching: Father Ledwich was an aficionado of the theatre, and constantly stressed both the liturgical origins of drama, and the dramatic nature of liturgy. I often think about that as I direct plays and operas: these events are not merely commodified entertainments but profound ceremonies, offering us a corporeal encounter with what is usually left invisible in our ways of living.

Father Ledwich would come to enjoy considerable notoriety during his short spell at HCS: he was a high churchman, and one of the leading figures in the campaign against the appointment of Reverend David Jenkins as Bishop of Durham. Jenkins was an academic theologian who advocated a nuanced and critical approach to Biblical stories and Christian traditions, looking with scepticism at (for example) the Virgin Birth and the bodily Resurrection. The day after he was consecrated in York Minster, the building was struck by lightning, and its blazing image is on the cover of Father Ledwich's book *The Durham Affair*, suggesting that the Chaplain, or at least his publisher, wanted to imply that this was divine retribution. The very public controversy led to Father Ledwich leaving the school, the Cathedral, and the Church of England itself, eventually becoming a Greek Orthodox monk under the name Archimandrite Athanasius.

It was Father Ledwich who helped me out when we weren't able to secure any of the usual spaces used for HCS drama to perform *Murderers*: the Cathedral was in use for the official school play, which was called *The Vigil* – a 1940s American courtroom drama that puts the Resurrection on trial. It would be fair to say that there was some resistance to any perceived rival event. Father Hugh Broad of All Saints was a High Church friend of our turbulent priest, and so we migrated from the 'established' spaces of HCS's theatrical and religious practices to an alternative location down the road. Like the Chaplain, we moved from an established centre to a dynamic periphery, and again that's a pattern I have often repeated since. Precisely because the centre is established, it's a very difficult place to make theatre, because theatre is necessarily dynamic, rough-edged and subversive. In *Murderers*, we were also using rock music, which has its own ethos of youthful rebellion, more than underlining the point.

The 1970s were, of course, the era of Biblical rock opera, with both *Godspell* and *Jesus Christ Superstar* enjoying long runs in the West End and on Broadway. We knew that we were riding a bit of a cultural bandwagon, but we also knew that these musicals, for all their commercial clout, were still considered very controversial, particularly in less cosmopolitan parts of the world, like Hereford. *Murderers*, like these other musicals, appropriated a story which seemed to belong to a particular tradition and cultural group, claiming it for another: the Bible readings we heard daily in 'chapel' sounded very different when filtered through electric guitars. That process was related to my collaboration with Mark Richards, who was a very talented musician, and who also led the school's decidedly evangelical, 'born again' Christian Fellowship at the time. It was the existence of this committed body of young people that made it possible to present *Murderers*. There were resources, structures and networks: there was a ready-made chorus.

> "Theatre is almost always in one way or another a contested space. It's in the nature of the art form that you cannot create it alone, and so it never represents a single vision, or encapsulates a rigid ideology."



● Some of the cast . . bopping their message across.

HARD ROCK IN THE AISLES!

HARD ROCK is being used in church by youngsters from Hereford Cathedral School to put across a Christian message.

In their Rock Opera 'Murderers' playing at All Saints church this week the school company of eighty performed a rock version of the life of Jesus Christ leading up to his death and resurrection.

Their own modern adaptation of an old story had audiences rocking in the aisles at the first performance last night.

● See Page 7 for full report and more pictures.

What we did not have was a shared view of what the production was for, or even about. In his review in *The Herefordian*, Colin Gray lamented the opening of the performance, with the cast gathering to recite the Lord's Prayer. "Drama/opera," he wrote, "is demeaned by being labelled before it even starts." What Colin didn't realise was that what he was criticising was actually the compromise position we had reached after much intense argument. Mark, and many others, had wanted a lot more praying. Gary Withers and I resisted having any at all.

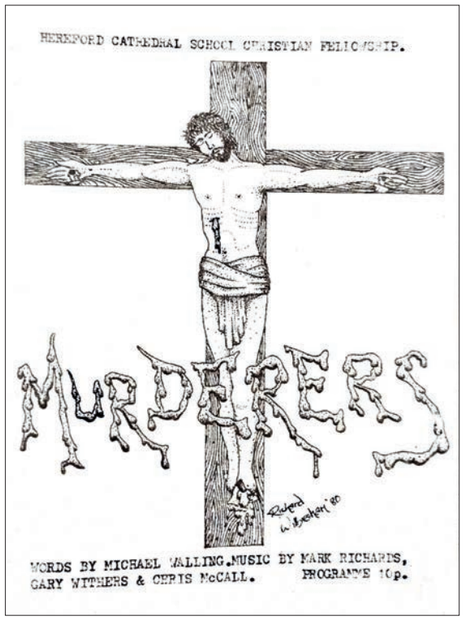
Theatre is almost always in one way or another a contested space. It's in the nature of the art form that you cannot create it alone, and so it never represents a single vision, or encapsulates a rigid ideology. The form is dialogic, and ridden with the conflict that is at the heart of drama. Very often what happens on the stage is a reflection of what has happened offstage in the process of the show's creation: when different parties each have a stake in the work, then something of their agenda will be made manifest in the performance. Nowadays my projects tend consciously to embrace this: I deliberately work with people from very different cultural and social

“Our Judas was a disillusioned 1960s idealist – he had been a protestor against the Vietnam War – desperate to find some moral compass in an ever more fractured and cynical world.”

backgrounds precisely so we can engage with the nature of difference and explore how the tensions in our societies might be processed through dialogue and democracy. I am also very aware that this approach to theatre is only possible when the people involved are open to debate and willing to shift their ground: it does not sit well with dogma. I think I learnt this by doing *Murderers*.

The pop star Christ portrayed by Andrew Price was, in retrospect, a response to this tension: Andrew did an extraordinary job of playing a kind of passive energy, deliberately exuding an invitation to read onto him whatever others might wish. But it wasn’t Christ himself who interested me so much as the characters responsible for his death. Hence the title. Our Judas was a disillusioned 1960s idealist – he had been a protestor against the Vietnam War – desperate to find some moral compass in an ever more fractured and cynical world. Our Pilate was a man of compassion caught up in the callous functionality of his political role: I find it oddly touching that Gary Withers, who played him, went on to become the CEO of a financial corporation. Our Caiaphas and Annas (played respectively by Jamie Eastaugh, the son of the bishop, and Paul Hollingworth, the son of the bursar, neatly uniting God and mammon) were trying to keep their church alive in the face of challenge and decline. Our Peter, played by the first of many actors of colour I have worked with, Robert Lee, was frightened of the mob: writing this at a time of widespread right-wing riots and racist violence across our country, he still feels very close to home.

These casting choices were also a fascinating lesson for me. In theatre that emerges from a community, like a school, there is a built-in ‘Verfremdungseffekt’, a distancing from the character that comes from the fact that the person on stage is known to the audience. So our murderers drew much of their significance from being played by sixth formers whose emerging personalities and trajectories were played out daily within the school community.



I was Judas.

The week after the performances, the Headmaster, Barry Sutton, invited the four of us writers to lunch at his house. *Murderers* had been a ‘hit’, with loud prolonged applause, great press coverage and a lot of ‘buzz’. I think Mr Sutton felt genuinely proud of us. But he also asked a very searching question: “What are you going to do next? Once you’ve told that story, where is there to go?”

As I write this essay, I am preparing a new piece called *The Mouth of the Gods*, which is built around music created by Indigenous composers on the Jesuit missions in 18th century Bolivia. It’s a narrative of the colonised, a re-orienting of historiography towards the Indigenous perspective, and it includes a series of judicial or political murders, particularly the execution of the rebel leader Tupac Amaru, and the more recent assassination of the environmental activist Berta Caceres. Both were charismatic leaders sacrificed to an alien power for ‘the good of the people’, Christ-like in their mythological status. And, strange though this may seem, the performance will begin with a prayer. This will be a blessing by Kurikindi, a Quechua shaman from the Ecuadorian Amazon, whose spiritual practice is rooted in a reciprocal relationship with the natural world. All these years later, it seems, I am still telling that story, just in a different way.

Michael Walling

OH 1981

Photos: *Previous pages (top left) Michael Walling in a HCS production of Jesus Christ Superstar; (top right) Hereford Times front page reporting on the production of Murderers – Anna Swindells and Liz Rhodes (both OH 1984) in character; (this page) Murderers play programme.*



MARRIAGES

1 Harriet Williams (OH 2013) married her partner Tyler Evans (pictured above) on 2nd August 2024. They enjoyed a beautiful day at the farm, Penrhos, surrounded by family and friends.

2 Romily Giddens (OH 2017) married Joshua Hall at St Peter & St Paul Church in Weobley on 22nd December 2023. Romily and Joshua have one daughter, Menai, and currently live in Kington along with their three Pug dogs.

3 Emma Lewis (OH 2010) married Ben Bullingham at St Mary’s Church, Dilwyn, on 3rd June 2023.

4 Ginny Lewis (OH 2008) married Will Lanyon on 18th May 2024 in St Mary’s Church, Dilwyn, Herefordshire.

5 Judah Moore (OH 2019) married Hannah on 24th August 2024. The day was great, the sun was shining, good food was eaten and guests danced for hours. The couple have now moved up to Yorkshire where they’re starting their new life together.

6 Tom Harrington and **Jodie Mallett** (both OH 2002) got married in the Cathedral's Lady Chapel on 5th August 2023. Jodie is Head of Classics at HCS.

The Maid of Honour, Best Man and Ushers were all Old Herefordians from the same year, respectively Angharad Fortgang (née Meredith), Anthony Stones, James Dickson, Tom Hirons and Adam Hume.

Other OHs in attendance were: Claudia Effra-Hume (née Whitcombe), Chris Roele, Dan Lewis, Henry Steele, Tom Seaman, Jo Seaborne (née Powell), Fenella Bennett, Rob Thomas, Samiya Rahman, Ruth Dickson, Chris Jones (née Stones), and Ellie Attfield. Also present were two former HCS Heads of Classics, Dick Rhodes and Siobhan DeSouza.

7 Evie Price (OH 2011) and Josh Arnett got married on Easter Saturday in Brilley, Herefordshire, followed by a reception at Evie's family farm. A number of HCS alumni were guests at the wedding.

8 Rachel Roper (OH 2016) married Luke Piper on 5th September 2024 at Lyde Court, Herefordshire. Hannah Roper (OH 2013) was Matron of Honour.

9 Georgie Taylor-Davies (née Portman-Lewis; OH 2014) got married at The Globe in Hay-on-Wye in a small ceremony with a few OHs in attendance. The couple arrived in Hay in a pink Cadillac, and celebrated among friends and family.

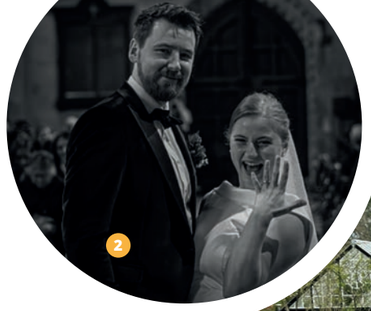
BIRTHS

10 Emma Dulson (née Shepherd; OH 2008) and husband Stephen Dulson announce the birth of daughter Isabella Iris Rose Dulson on 22nd January 2024. Isabella joins Frederick Joseph (who was 8 in August) and Penelope Sophia (5).

11 Charlotte Wardle (née Morris; OH 1997–2004) and her husband David welcomed their beautiful daughter, Aurelia, in April 2024.







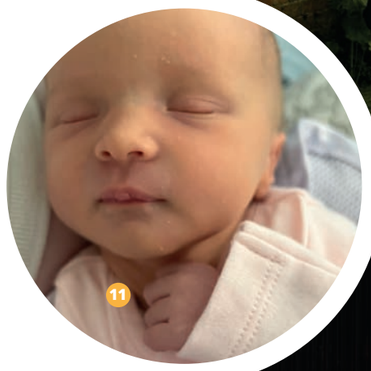












































OH SPORTS DAY 2024

SATURDAY 19TH OCTOBER

OH HOCKEY

Old Herefordians 7–HCS 5

On this stunning day at Hereford Leisure Centre, the rain and floods had subsided and what had promised to be one of the best OH matches for a decade didn't disappoint.

Nine-a-side, with returning captain from last year Maddie Children (2023–24) leading the side alongside other National League player Emily Rogers, Bronte Giddens, captain (2021–22), Liv Anderson, Liv Teale, Bethan Goode and Tamsin Hallett. The rest of the OH team included local cricket legend Adam Hewlett and Indie Jerram. Umpire: Mr Connop.

The game started with defending option for both teams as goals were flying in both ends, and some outstanding attacking hockey from both teams. At half time the score was 4–3 to HCS with two goals from the OH teams scored by Bronte. The OH team turned it on in the second half with a hat trick from Emily Rogers, and with the school side running out of steam, the score finishing was 7–5 to the OHs.

A fantastic game in good spirits, and great to see so many recent OHs playing. A real testament to the standard of hockey at school with so many positive comments from supporters and friends.

Andy Rogers

Assistant Director of Sport
Head of Hockey & Cricket





OH NETBALL

It was a great turn out for OH netball this year, with pupils from many different years attending. Among these were the Mann sisters – Dani, Summer and Niamh – who came to play against their youngest sister Scarlet, who was on the school team. A real family affair!

The school team made a great start with confident shooting from captain Lilia W and Flo J that saw the school take an early lead. The second quarter saw OH start to fight back; however, excellent defensive play and numerous turnovers from Izzy N, who was making her first team debut, saw school maintain the lead. The experienced OH team started to settle in the second half and with Liv T and Emily R developing a strong partnership in the circle, OH managed to make it a draw going into the last quarter. A nail-biting fourth quarter saw end to end netball with both teams taking the lead at some point.

It was OH who managed to hold onto victory to win 38–37 in what was the closest OH netball game in a long time. Well done to Izzy N who was voted player of the match for school and Liv T who was voted for the OH team. It was such an exciting game, and a high standard of netball from both teams.

Sarah Hopkins

Head of Netball and Teacher of PE & Games

"A fantastic game in good spirits, and great to see so many recent OHs playing"













OH FOOTBALL

It was a great OH encounter at football this year. A beautiful day after a wet and rainy week, so conditions were perfect for a game of football! A competitive, evenly matched, end to end match.

Both teams started well, with OH having some good possession and creating some early chances. HCS soon grew into the game, which opened the match up. It was OH that broke the deadlock, with a sensational top corner finish from Cyrus Clive after some nice play on the right wing: HCS 0–1 OH.

HCS then started to play some nice football, with Rafi Wilkinson having a good battle with OH's Sam Phillips in the middle of the park. This helped HCS get a foothold on the game, leading to some nice chances. However, just before half-time, OH won a penalty on the counterattack that was calmly dispatched from Charlie Goodwin: HCS 0–2 OH.

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 chances for the HCS team, with the lively Finlay Hayes coming close but his effort unfortunately hitting the cross bar. HCS continued piling on the pressure, which led to a penalty for HCS in the final minutes of the game. Up stepped Samuel Johnson, who showed some great composure, slotting the ball away just before the final whistle.

HCS 1–2 OH

Well done OH on their victory! A brilliant game of football played in great spirit. Well done to all involved.

Joel Edwards
Head of Football

"With the second half underway and some fresh legs on for the HCS team, our youth and energy started to show."





OH RUGBY

In a thrilling encounter between the 'Young Leavers' and 'Older Leavers', both teams showcased skill and determination. The Young Leavers got off to a flying start with early tries from Louie Orgee, Sam Blagbrough, and a fantastic solo effort by Harry Corner (Year 13), securing a 19–0 lead by half-time.

As the game moved into the second half, the Older Leavers fought back with determination. Their persistence paid off when Steff Grocott powered over after a well-worked scrum, injecting fresh energy into the team. This appeared to rejuvenate the older team, and shortly after some slick hands saw Cam Hunter dive over into the corner to make a game of it.

With momentum hanging in the balance, Young Leavers captain Harry Sockett rallied his team, and a well-executed scrum led to Ben Yeo's perfectly timed pass, allowing Harry Corner to score his second try of the game.

Young leavers came away victorious for the second year in a row, with a final score of 26–12.

Players of the match: Young Leavers – Harry Corner; Older Leavers – Charlie Skyrme.

Matt Milsom
Head of Rugby, Head of Year 11 and Teacher of Physical Education

Hockey, netball, football and rugby photos © Rebecca Morrant











COMMON ROOM SHUFFLE



MR BEN ABBOTT

Head of English (2015–24)

Mr Abbott joined us in 2015, having previously led the English and Drama departments at John Kyrle High School. As well as inspiring many pupils as their English teacher, he has overseen their broader successes through leading one of the largest and most successful departments in the School. Mr Abbott's contributions to other aspects of school life are too many to mention, but include the following productions: *Frankenstein's Aunt* (writer, composer and director), *A Christmas Carol* (director, designer and adapter) and *Macbeth* (director, designer and adapter).

Mr Abbott has also run the Acafellas for 7 years, and has helped our pupils to achieve success at the English-Speaking Union and Poetry by Heart competitions.

MISS EVIE ATTERBY

Teacher of Biology (2021–24)

Miss Atterby was a popular teacher who inspired many students on their journey in Biology and Psychology, even extending her skills to helping develop the PSHE curriculum. She always brought a high level of energy to both the classroom and the department. She fully embraced the extra-curricular aspects of life at HCS, attending DofE expeditions and CCF camps, and was an integral part of the Common Room committee.

MR RICHARD CROOT

Assistant Director of Studies (1994–2024)

Mr Croot was one of the school's longest-standing teachers and has been a tremendous servant to Hereford Cathedral School. He joined HCS as a teacher of Maths in 1994 and very quickly established himself as an excellent teacher of the subject. His mathematical ability and understanding of the complexities of the discipline have been appreciated by all his students, alongside his ability to explain concepts and principles with clarity and logic. These skills and aptitudes were harnessed on the academic side of the school when Mr Croot was appointed as Assistant Director of Studies, a role in which he had responsibility for the writing of the timetable, cover arrangements, parents' evenings and internal examination arrangements.

This important operational responsibility has enabled the school to function effectively over so many years. Mr Croot has also supported the extra-curricular life of the school during his tenure, coaching rugby, running Bridge Club, and establishing HCS as a formidable school on the chess circuit.

MR MATT FERRIDAY

Teacher of Science (2022–24)

Mr Ferriday returned to Hereford in 2022 after several years of teaching in Hong Kong.

At HCS, his consistently positive attitude, proactive approach, and innovative methods for student engagement have had a lasting impact. His dedicated work with Year 11 students and strong rapport with both students and parents demonstrate his commitment. Additionally, Mr Ferriday continually explores new ideas, including AI integration in lessons. Mr Ferriday is leaving to become Head of Science at Aylestone School.

MR JOSH GIBSON

Teacher of Physics (2021–24)

Mr Gibson joined HCS as a teacher of Physics, having graduated from the University of Bath. He has immersed himself in all aspects of school life. Not only an exceptional physicist, Mr Gibson has been able to share his love of rowing with our successful squad and became involved in the Navy section of CCF, being promoted to Sub-Lieutenant by the end of his first year. He became an invaluable member of the boarding house team. He has been an asset to the Sixth Form tutor team; his tutees have valued his time and commitment to their pastoral and academic progress, alongside his quick wit and unfailing support of all Sixth Form events. Mr Gibson is a committed physicist; his knowledge of, and willingness to embrace digital technology to support his teaching has been exemplary, sharing his routines with other teachers within the department and across the school. It came as no surprise that Josh was offered multiple opportunities to teach in schools across the globe, and we wish him all the very best as he sets off to New Zealand for the next stage of his career.

MR INNES JACKSON

Rowing Coach (2023–24)

Mr Innes Jackson has transitioned seamlessly from athlete to rowing coach, proving himself indispensable in every facet of the job. From the Year 9 'learn to row' to the performance National Schools Regatta and Henley crews, he has had a lasting positive effect on Hereford Cathedral School Boat Club.

MISS EMILY JARVIS

Teacher of English (2022–24)

Miss Jarvis joined HCS in 2022, having completed her degree at Exeter and her teacher training at Bristol. She has developed her skills as an inspirational English teacher and a much-appreciated Year 7 tutor. Alongside her English teaching, she has taught Speech and Drama, assisted with book clubs, netball and the coaching of our hugely successful English-Speaking Union public speaking team. Having grown up in Hereford, she is moving on to take up an English teaching post at Elizabeth College in Guernsey.

MRS CLAIRE MORGAN-JONES

Development Director (2010–24)

Mrs Morgan-Jones joined HCS in 2010 as the first Development Director in the School's history. This is a role which is multifaceted and includes working with alumni, donors and key stakeholders to develop relationships, and to strengthen their links with the School. Through her tireless and strategic efforts, Claire has facilitated tremendous support for HCS in the form of donors' time, talent and treasure. Of particular note is the work that she has done in securing bursary donations and grants for very talented pupils whose parents could not afford to send their children to the School.

> "Claire has been a wise and strategically insightful member of the School. We wish her every happiness in her retirement."

During her tenure, she has raised hundreds of thousands of pounds which has resulted in life-transforming opportunities and the supporting of capital projects. Claire has been a thoughtful, wise, and strategically insightful member of the School's Senior Leadership Team and we wish her every happiness and fulfilment in her retirement. The work that she has done over the years at HCS is often unknown to many within the school community, but has enabled countless young people to receive an HCS education which they otherwise would never have experienced and enjoyed.

MR ROB PIZII

Bursar (2014–23)

Mr Pizii was Bursar of HCS for almost 10 years and played a key role in navigating the School through the challenges of Brexit and the pandemic. He was integral in the acquisition and conversion of Wilmot House and the re-introduction of boarding in 2019. The fabric of the school site also underwent significant improvement and renovation during his time. In addition to his work as Bursar, Rob was also Contingent Commander of the Combined Cadet Force. Rob was a conscientious and highly committed member of the Senior Leadership Team, and we wish him well his new role at the Independent Schools Bursars Association.

MRS KATH PROCTOR

Chorister Tutor (2015–24)

Mrs Proctor joined us in April 2015 as the Chorister Tutor. Kath has been a cornerstone of support for the choristers. Her dedication to pastoral care, supervision before and after rehearsals and services, and acting as a crucial link between the cathedral and our school has been invaluable. Kath has diligently liaised with parents, organised numerous events, and played a vital role in the success of many choir trips. These excursions have included foundation visits, performances at churches within the diocese, and participation in special events and tours. Kath has accompanied our choristers on a memorable tour of the USA. She also supported the choir during the D-Day anniversary celebrations in France and during their unforgettable visit to the Sistine Chapel and Vatican City.

MISS LOU RICHARDSON

Guitar Teacher (2004–24)

Miss Richardson has been a dedicated guitar teacher in the HCS Music Department for 20 years. A former pupil of the School, her passion for teaching and her mentoring of guitarists and song-writers has allowed many young musicians to flourish in her care. Miss Richardson's positivity and encouragement have instilled in her pupils the confidence to perform in public and provided many with a life-long love of music.

MS SAM RIMINGTON

Head of Modern Foreign Languages (2019–24)

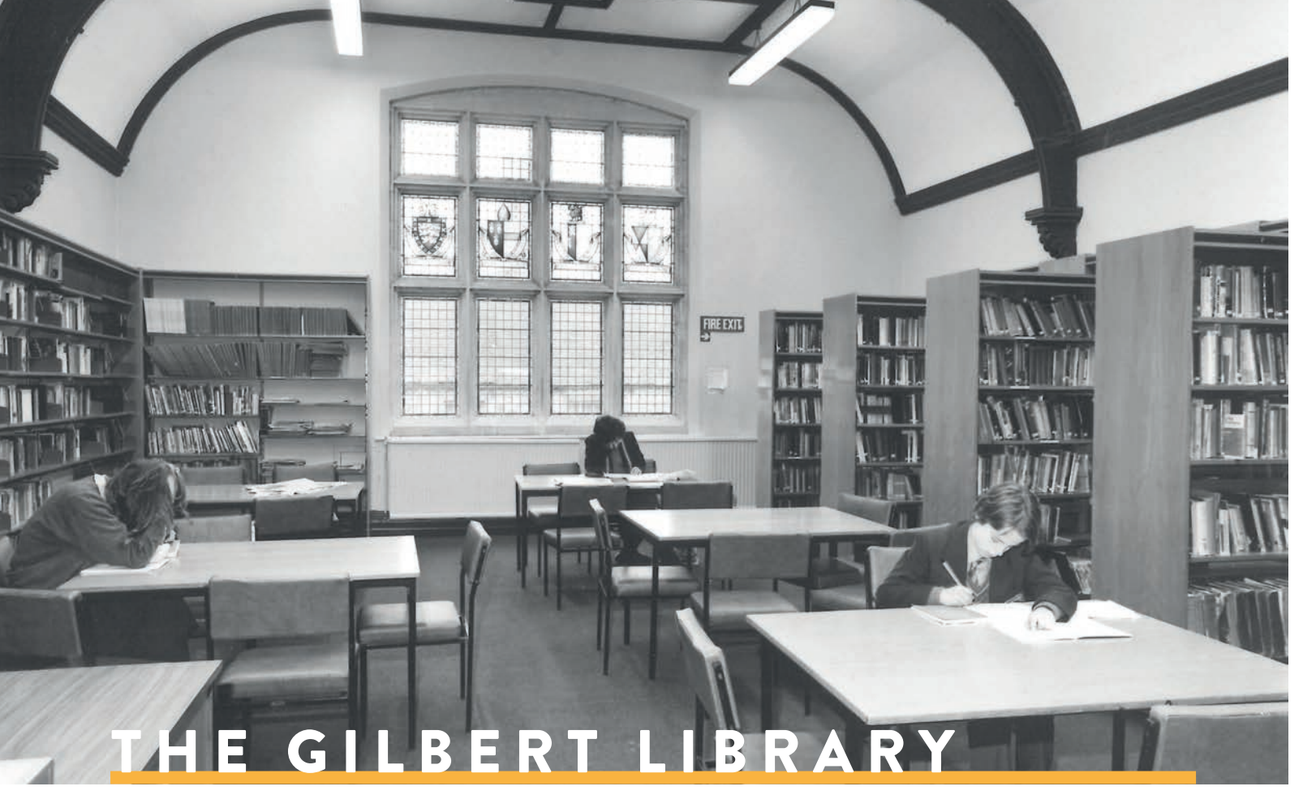
Ms Rimington graduated from Cardiff University in 2015; she joined HCS as an NQT in September 2019 and quickly proved herself an invaluable part of the Languages Department, becoming Head of Department in September 2022. Her passion for language learning has ensured that our students have enjoyed many enriching and thought-provoking language opportunities such as Languages No Limits and the new immersion trip to Salamanca. She is well known for her brightly coloured displays, and her glitter art in lockdown is still remembered by her classes. During Ms Rimington's time at HCS she has held the positions of PSHE Co-ordinator, EPQ Supervisor and Head of the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. Her faultless organisational skills, sense of humour and kindness to all will be greatly missed and we wish her all the very best as she joins Bedales School.

MISS CIERA WHEELER

Graduate Assistant (2023–24)

Miss Wheeler has been a fantastic Graduate Assistant at Wilmot House. She is always willing to provide support, and has built positive relationships with the students, guiding them through their university applications and prep. She goes above and beyond to make sure everyone feels supported and understood. Her enthusiasm and dedication inspire those around her, and her cheery disposition will be remembered fondly.

Photo: Retiring Development Director Claire Morgan-Jones with OH President Richard Binnersley.



THE GILBERT LIBRARY
25 YEARS ON



The cavernous hall was painted black, with a ceiling full of stage lights and a small lighting box at the far end. There wasn't a single window.

It was the current school theatre space, now defunct, as the new theatre had just opened in the Zimmerman Building across the Close. The adjacent room was accessed up a flight of stairs to a window overlooking the Cathedral with a sombre room to the right with dark wooden shelves and a musty smell, graced by a beautiful stained -glass window. It was 1997 and my task, if I chose to accept it, was to help HCS turn these two rooms into one big room – a school library ready for the new millennium.

Firstly, the funding had to be in place and I met with many Old Herefordians, and spoke to a Governor's Meeting and the PTA, to explain what we were planning to create. Peter Williams was a lively member of the steering committee, as Ms Zammit stepped back from the committee, as the theatre was completed, and I arrived to begin the Library project.

Secondly, every tutor group and teaching department filled in a questionnaire about what they would like to see in their new library. The swimming pool, pool table and café ideas were rejected, but beanbags and comfy seating were accepted. Thanks to generous donations we could meet the requests for books and had a wonderful couple of days in a book warehouse near Leeds, spending £11,000 on a core collection of essential items and suggestions from lists supplied by the teaching staff and pupils.

> "The area of wall to be demolished was marked out and pupils could buy a brick which they were then free to graffiti as they wished."

The farewell to the old theatre took the form of a Library Week of themed events organised by the staff Library committee; Jim Shutt, Mark Jackson, Lucy Hargrove, myself and Colin Gray among them.

The area of wall to be demolished was marked out and pupils could buy a brick which they were then free to graffiti as they wished. A barn dance with live band and food took place on the Friday evening. A talent show was organised by Ms Zammit, during which I filled in between the acts in a hard hat, measuring the space and sucking my teeth!

By January 1997 the library was operating from a maths classroom downstairs, having been mostly boxed up. The building work had begun. The lighting box was being returned to its old size as a balcony, creating an area for silent study upstairs and a new computer room downstairs. By spring, extensive dry rot was discovered and the treatment delayed the project until the summer. Progress was still rapid, however, as we purchased the first stand-alone PC in the school, installed the online Library Management computer system and began to catalogue the new books. Three furniture companies bid for the furniture contract and presented their different designs; all had to have mobile shelving as bookshelves with wheels allowing for complete flexibility in the space.

By the middle of the autumn term 1998 we were looking at an opening ceremony in the December, ready for January 1999. So many people wanted to come to the opening ceremony that most of the bookshelves were wheeled into the computer room

> "We had a wonderful couple of days in a book warehouse near Leeds, spending £11,000 on a core collection of essential items."

to make enough space. I had to stand guard in front of the new Viscount Portman window to make sure none of the guests got emulsion on their clothes, as it had only been painted barely two hours before!

It was a pleasure to meet Daly Briscoe, who opened the library (Dr Briscoe, at the age of 97, was the oldest living OH at the time the library was opened), and I think Dr Tomlinson greatly enjoyed addressing the assembled throng from the balcony. Our first children's author of many to visit us in the new library was Celia Rees and since then the library has grown and thrived, expanding into e-books, a pop-up cinema and the new Digital Strategy.

Today, in May 2024, I began by visiting a Year 7 class with one of my volunteer pupils, Evan, who is working with me in his spare time for his D of E volunteering module. Evan led the session from the front with his powerpoint presentation, taking the pupils through the process of accessing our collection of e-books.

A sixth-former spoke to me most fondly about my 'legendary sofa' last week. When I looked puzzled he declared that it got him through his GCSEs – the fact he could come and collapse on it after each exam and talk through his day. "It's the right sort of squishy, Miss".

I'll take that.

Rachel Ayers-Nelson, Librarian







Photos: Previous page (main): The old library; (inset) Dr Daly Briscoe opens the new Gilbert Library. This page: Mr Tomlinson addresses the throng at the new library opening; visitors enjoy browsing the new library space.

OBITUARIES



JOHN BARTLETT
OH 1953–60

John Bartlett passed away peacefully on the morning of 4th March 2024. He was 82 years old and was enjoying life in Pontyclun with his second wife, Ruth.

After school John had a long career in education, finishing up as a head teacher in Griffithstown, South Wales. On retirement he enjoyed restoring classic cars, volunteering at the local church and national park and, briefly, was a security guard in a local builder's yard.

He leaves behind Ruth, his wife, his daughter Emma and son Peter and their five children.

His ashes will be placed at St Mary's Church, Abergavenny, where he lived for most of his life and with his first wife, Elizabeth.



DAVID BERESFORD
OH 1949–57

David was born on 19th April 1938 to Sylvia and Herbert Beresford in West Kirby, Liverpool, the eldest of three children. He and his brother, Keith, experienced the intense bombing of the city during World War II and the family decided in the interest of safety to move to Herefordshire where a sister, Judith, was born.

David had an idyllic childhood, growing up in Herefordshire at the family homes in Deep Dene and later Bishop's Wood. He had the freedom of fields and woods to build treehouses, play cowboys and Indians, hide and seek, and generally tease his little sister.

He became fascinated with aeroplanes and photography at an early age, so much so that every model of plane hung from his bedroom ceiling and he photographed his friends and family at every opportunity.

David attended HCS where he excelled at rugby and became an officer in the CCF. He had many happy memories of school, the skills it gave him and lifelong friends he made there.

Returning to Liverpool to support his grandfather's business when he became ill, David put his own dreams on hold but enjoyed playing rugby for Waterloo Club, developing an interest in cars and enjoying the swinging '60s. He met and married Barbara in 1962 and by 1968 they had moved to Guernsey with their young family, Amanda and Michael.

At the age of 47 David pursued his own dreams and decided to learn to fly. He gained his commercial licence by the time he was 50, enjoying a second career as a pilot.

Returning to Herefordshire to help care for his ageing mother, David met his second wife, Sue, with whom he went on to celebrate 20 years of happiness. His granddaughters, Jemma, Emily and Tabitha, often came to visit and he would enjoy taking them out in his classic cars, which they thought resembled Chitty Chitty Bang Bang.

He was a committee member of the Old Herefordians' Club and featured on the cover of the 2018 magazine, skydiving to raise funds for BLESMA.



REVEREND MICHAEL BROMFIELD
OH 1950

Michael attended HCS during the 1940s. He was in School House. While at HCS he enjoyed swimming, rowing, serving at the cathedral and All Saints, and bell ringing. His best friend was Colin Peters. Michael enjoyed attending the OH meetings, usually with David Bland. He talked of being a priest even as a child.

Photo: Michael (right) with best friend Colin Peters.



ROGER BROWN
OH 1949–58

Roger Bole Brown passed away on 8th November 2023 aged 85 years.

He was born on 4th September 1938 in Bombay, India, where he lived until the age of nine, when he and his younger brother Jeremy moved to the UK to attend HCS as boarders in School House.

Roger was an accomplished sportsman and went on to earn his colours at rugby and cricket. He particularly excelled at cricket. He captained the 1st XI and was considered by many to have been the best batsman at HCS since Peter and Dickie Richardson.

In his final year he was Captain of School and after completing his A levels left school for two years' National Service in the Army which included a six month posting to Cyprus.

After completing his National Service, Roger joined Regent Oil and was posted to Leeds, where he met his future wife, Pat. They were married in Leeds in 1964.

He left Regent Oil to join Lewis's Department Store in Leeds, part of the Selfridge's Group, which subsequently took him to Oxford and Head Office in London. He retired in 2003 and settled in Aylesbury.

Roger's family was most important to him and he will be remembered for his kindness and sense of humour which never deserted him, even in the last five years of his life when his health was challenging.

He is survived by his wife Pat, daughters Lisa and Julia and granddaughters Hollie and India.



JOHN DAVIES ('TICH')
OH 1946–53

John passed away very suddenly on 29th November 2023. Hailing from Maesteg, he attended HCS from the age of eleven and played a very active part in school life. He was Head Boy in the Sixth Form and also Captain of the 1st XV cricket team while also playing on the wing for the rugby 1st XV. In 1960 he married Eileen and had two daughters, Susan and Catherine. Eileen passed away in 2015 and both are very much missed by their daughters and grandchildren.

After leaving Hereford he completed his National Service before forging a successful career as MD of a construction and mining insurance organisation. In 2022 he revisited Hereford to relive memories of his school days, some of which were an eye-opener to his daughters!

JAN S DAYBELL
OH 1950–58

The Telegraph ran a death notice on 4th November 2023. If any readers would like to send information in about Mr Daybell we are happy to print a fuller notice in 2025.



DAVID EDWARD NORMAN BLISS ('DENB') JONES
OH 1949–56

David was born on New Year's Day 1938 at Southend-on-Sea. His family were Welsh-speaking and proud of it. His several names are part of that Welsh tradition: 'David' had long been a family name and, of course, a tradition in Wales. Edward was given to commemorate two of his uncles; Norman was his godfather's Christian name; and Bliss his Grandmother Jones' maiden name. Four names was a bit too long for everyday use, hence most of us knew him as Denb!

Later in 1938 the family moved to Herefordshire: first to Hay-on-Wye and then to the city of Hereford. Denb attended Tupsley School, where it became obvious that he was academically able, and he won a scholarship to the Cathedral School in 1948. He loved the school, and was proud of his scholarship and his achievements. He made the 1st XV and the Rowing Team.

There was a break in his education while he did National Service in the Army RAC; RAEC; RASC. Sadly Denb was wounded and lost an eye. In spite of injuries, he studied for a year before taking the examination for Cambridge University. Again, he was so proud of his scholarship and went up to Selwyn to read Classics with a view to teaching.

His first post was at King's School, Worcester, before he returned to Hereford to teach in the Junior Department of the Cathedral School. He then moved into the State sector and taught there until 1989. During that time, he found the time and the opportunity to marry Brenda in 1972. He suffered a great deal of ill health, which caused him to retire early, though Brenda and he still managed interesting holidays. He died in Hereford Hospital on 2nd April 2024.



ALEX GJ DRAPER
OH 1980–87

Although for most of his lifetime a Herefordian, Alex started as a Nottinghamian – as did his brother Tim, arriving a little later. He lived in the shadow of Trent Bridge cricket ground, which meant that Alex – loving cricket as his favourite sport – supported Nottinghamshire all his life. The move to Hereford was made in the 1970s with his father's work.

As youngsters, Alex and his brother Tim were encouraged to join the choir at Hereford Cathedral and Alex began his long music journey as a probationer chorister, working his way up to Deputy Head and becoming the Boy Bishop at the end of his five-year stay. Alex went on to learn and love music even more, and with the tutoring and encouragement of Richard Errington he achieved his Grade 9 in piano.

He had good times in the sixth form at HCS and out of that came some lifelong friendships. Alex went on to Bristol University to study Religious Science and Philosophy and it was here he developed a great love of his subject and an equal lifelong love for Bristol. Thoughts of teaching came about and he threw himself into securing a PGCE place at Homerton College, Cambridge, and spending an enjoyable time on teaching practices in the Fenlands around Ely. Out of the blue in the mid 1990s a post became vacant at Lady Hawkins' School, Kington. He became Head of Humanities and Sixth Form studies and will be remembered by many of his past pupils.

"It was my privilege and pleasure to teach both Alex and Tim Draper while I was a teacher at HCS, so it was a real delight to discover that Alex was actually living in Eardisley, where my wife, Bridgid, and I had chosen to live on our return from 23 years of living in south west France. We quickly made contact and I paid frequent visits to Great Oak Cottage where Alex lived. We had many discussions about composers and their merits (or not!) and we both introduced each other to music which neither of us had previously known. I had taught Alex piano and he was a member of the Chamber Choir, so it was great to know he was still actively doing those things. His French horn was also always in evidence whenever I visited, although I never heard him play it. He was in the process of learning a song cycle I had written, called 'Pomona', all about Herefordshire, and he told me that one of his young nieces or nephews (I forget which!) used to laugh out loud at one bit where he had to sort of shout 'cracks gape!' on two rather wild notes.

"It was not long after this that I learned the dreadful news about his brain tumour. Our daughter, Rachael, had had a brain tumour removed (in New Zealand) during lockdown, so I put the two of them in touch with each other in the hope that they could talk to each other and find some comfort in being able to do that. I hope it did. Rachael's was benign, fortunately, and she is fine. Alex's, sadly, was not. Throughout his illness, he remained cheerful and positive and, of course, had the tremendous support of his family and his girlfriend Kate. I went to see him in the Hospice just before he died, and even though it must have been a great effort for him, he chatted about his time at HCS with great affection. At his funeral in Eardisley, I had the honour of playing one of the piano pieces I had taught him for his grade 8 exam. He was a gifted and talented young man and will be greatly missed by everyone who knew him."

by Richard Errington
OH 1962–69; HCS teacher 1980–90



LETITIA ANNE DUNNE
OH 1977–82

Letty was the warmest, most loyal and affectionate of friends. She was sensitive, funny and bright and I was lucky to start my HCS years with her in my form. There was a lot of talking and a lot of laughing in those early years, some of it helplessly uncontrollable. On one memorable occasion in an English lesson when writing a descriptive piece in groups, Letty's enthusiastic and over zealous descriptions sent us hysterical with laughter. An exasperated Colin Gray had to eject us from the lesson. He would open the door periodically to see if we had calmed down, which only set us off again. That sort of laughing is rare, exhilarating and quite exhausting and it would often happen if Letty was around.

On another memorable occasion we bought charity shop stilettos and huge faux-fur coats and set off on the Yeoman's bus for Jane Whittal's in Clehonger. Missing our stop, we had to stagger painfully up the Bowling Green hill, again, helpless with laughter.

There was also garlic sliding, which involved plastic bags and the wild garlic wooded slopes around Gatley (her parents' family home). I still have Gatley wild garlic in my garden today, which has come with me in all my gardens back to Herefordshire again.

After O levels Letty left to go to school in London, but we kept in contact and continued to meet. There were difficult times in her life as she got older, and during those times she would message less, but then a card would arrive. She was an avid sender of cards and contact would resume. Most importantly, we knew we were there for each other and our shared history and great friendship was all that mattered.

It was with huge sadness that I heard Letty had died suddenly of a heart attack on 4th June 2024, aged 58. We had been messaging each other a few weeks earlier about the 40-year reunion held at school and she had expressed delight in seeing so many familiar faces in the photographs. Her cards, visits and messages, often starting with the words "Let's make a plan…" will be missed tremendously, but she will never be forgotten.

by Liz Rhodes (OH 1984)



FRANCIS TERENCE MASON
OH 1960–66

Cricket in Herefordshire has lost one of its greatest enthusiasts and most devoted servants with the passing of Terry Mason at the age of 75.

Terry was educated at Hereford Cathedral School and worked in the legal profession, but his enduring passion was cricket, a sport in which he was involved from his schooldays to the end of his life.

Terry, known sometimes early in his cricket career by his first given name of Francis, and later 'FT', to differentiate him in the scorebook from his brother and long-time team-mate Tim, was an opening bowler and lower order batsman.

He began his career in the early 1960s at Hunderton Youth Club where he ran the team. In 1980, he returned to 'home ground' with Herefordians, originally the old boys team of his former school.

Terry, a formidable administrator and organiser, galvanised a struggling club and set them up with a new headquarters at the Grafton where they played for several seasons before setting up a new base at Bishop's School.

He remained a source of great knowledge about the game locally until the end of his life.

Terry Mason leaves a widow, Carol, and a son, Ben, who was instilled from an early age with his dad's enthusiasm for cricket.

Photo: Terry Mason is at the centre.



MICHAEL P MORETON
OH 1942–49

Mike had an enormous enthusiasm for HCS. While a student at the Cathedral School (West House) he was an important member of the HCS Boat Club, having rowed in the 1st VIII crew. As a result of his skill as an oarsman, Mike regularly represented his school at local and national regattas. He would often relay to fellow OHs how he proudly, but certainly not in a boastful manner, won trophies at Marlow and Henley Regattas as well as races on the River Wye, then over on the Severn versus Worcester Kings and RGS, and possibly Malvern and Cheltenham Colleges. Several years ago, he kindly donated a special boat to the School Rowing Club, which now proudly bears his name.

Photo: Michael Moreton (right) with David Prosser at Doggett's Annual Spring Lunch, March 2012.

JAMES PATRICK MORRIS
OH 1962–69

James Patrick Morris passed away at his home in Birmingham on 11th March 2024 at the age of 73. I know James very much enjoyed his time at HCS, where he made a number of lifelong friends, in particular Graham Lyke, Tom Goodwin and Paul Tomlinson. He took part in many school activities, principally playing in the 1st rugby XV at every age group through the school, a number of school plays and one of the first (if not the first) school ski trips to Ishgl in Austria.

After leaving school, James studied at Birmingham University where he obtained a BSc in Mechanical Engineering in 1972. He joined what was then British Leyland, subsequently to become Jaguar Land Rover. He spent a long and happy career at Jaguar in a variety of roles before retiring about eight years ago.

Shortly after leaving university, James met and married Sue, with whom he had three children, Lottie, Rosie and Fergus. Lottie recently obtained a PhD in Educational Psychology at Bath University and now works as a counsellor at the College Alpin Beau Soleil in Switzerland; Rosie captained the Great Britain women's water polo team at the London Olympics in 2012 and now teaches at King Edward's school in Birmingham; and Fergus is an A&E consultant living in Perth in Western Australia. James is survived by Sue and all of his children – and now five (shortly to be six) grandchildren.

Throughout his life, James retained the love he developed at school for rugby. On arrival in Birmingham he joined Moseley rugby club, for whom he then played for more than 20 years before retiring to the ranks of the committees that are the lifeblood of rugby clubs. Not only did he derive years of pleasure and friendship from his association with Moseley rugby club, he even bought a house in the same road as the club and his daughter, Rosie, met her husband at the club.

James' ashes were scattered on one of his favourite stretches of the River Wye at Hampton Bishop in a simple ceremony involving close family and friends on 25th June 2024, on what was otherwise one of the most perfect Herefordshire summer days imaginable.

by Tim Morris (OH 1967–73)



RICHARD STAMP
OH 1981–88

In November 2023 we heard the awful news of the passing of Richard 'Stampy' Stamp. It will be

a great shock for many, as Stampy's net of friends and acquaintances was cast far and wide, and his desire to be with people and make things happen means his loss continues to hurt a lot of us. Because, for those who knew him, he was one of those who created memories.

Stampy loved HCS. He enjoyed it from the start of the day with a morning assembly, belting out 'Jerusalem', until the end of school when he would hang about the wall in front of New Block with anyone waiting for their lift home. He was a social pupil, more interested in the people than the lessons, but was super sharp with facts when he wanted to be. He rolled through various sports teams and enjoyed drama – he liked taking part.

After sixth form, he went to Reading University to study Agricultural Economics and then through various careers, until settling with sports memorabilia sales in Sydney, Australia. Along the way, lots of people from school, university, Hereford and Ross-on-Wye all kept in touch, and he would always try to catch up with as many as possible when making whirlwind visits back home.

Gone far too soon, Rich leaves his partner Ashlea, his sons Will and Charlie, and his mum Gill. He also leaves lots of friends in the OH community who will remember him for the generous and funny guy he was, who had a lot more to give.

by Richard Binnersley (OH 1988)

Photo: Stampy (right) with Richard Binnersley (now OH President) on the left.



DON THEAKSTON
OH (FORMER TEACHER) 1958–91

Donald Wilfred Theakston was born in Silvertown, West Ham, East London, on 9th February 1930, to Wilfred (Bill) and Anne (née Rush) Theakston. He grew up in Chingford. In his youth he was keen on all kinds of sports and athletics: running, cricket, gymnastics, pole vault and, of course, rugby, which he played internationally. He also enjoyed figure skating.

He used to cycle from Chingford, down the Balls Pond Road, to the East London docks, where he worked shovelling coal on barges, to pay his way to go to university. He went to university in Birmingham in the early 1950s, where he met Pauline Wells. They both went on to Norwich for teacher training and then married and set up home in Herefordshire.

Don's service to HCS as school master ran from the end of the 1950s to 1990, during which he taught Geography and Sports, plus a bit of Latin in the early days. He co-founded the Herefordshire Schools Rugby Union in 1965 and, along with Bob Talbot, co-founded the Marches Sevens in 1977.

He became an official Major of the British Army, to lead the school corps. He also ran the Duke of Edinburgh Awards at school and had great ambitions of his own to climb all the peaks in the country – he managed a fair few.

Don spent his final year and a bit, together with Pauline, in Brockington House care home, where he'll be missed by the staff, who he made a lasting impression upon.

The whole family, children, grandchildren and beyond, all remember what a lovely, funny man he was, and always a true gentleman. He is greatly missed.



JOHN VICKERMAN
OH 1953–59

John was a wartime baby; he was born on 6th August 1942, the second son to Olive and Roger. He was raised on a smallholding in Wellington near Hereford. Alongside his love of the natural world, he was a very keen participant in racket sports, especially tennis and squash, in his younger years. He attended Hereford Cathedral School and then went on to study at Pershore Institute of Horticulture. For the first five years of his working life, he worked in horticulture and market gardening throughout the Hereford and Evesham area.

Over the next decade John went on to work in sales for Cadbury's and during this role he had the opportunity to represent sales for Cadbury's on a secondment to South Africa. Shortly before departing, he met future wife Jane at a dance in Southampton. After completing her nurse training Jane followed John to South Africa, and soon after he proposed and they married on 10th October 1970, moving to Greatly, near Reading. Their son Simon was born in April 1974. Another move to Fordingbridge was followed by the arrival of their daughter, followed in 1983 by a move to Salisbury.

After he left Cadbury's, John started a new sales role for Slimma, a women's fashion clothing label, covering the south east of England. He continued working for Slimma for 17 years.

In 1992 and after much consideration, he set up his own business: New Forest Bird Watching Tours. With his trusted white minibus, he'd take people off around the UK on birdwatching holidays.

Having retired, John stepped up his voluntary conservation work, notably on Harnham Water Meadows, including traditional hedge laying and bird nest counting survey work. He sat on various birdwatching committees and continued to organise and participate in many bird watching outings with clubs. He was never happier than when layering on all his old jumpers and waterproofs, and loading up his lunchbox, flask, telescope and binoculars, into the car or minibus, and setting off!

Following a brain haemorrhage in 2015 John received care from some amazing individuals.



MICHAEL D WILSON
OH DEANERY 1954–61

Michael Wilson passed away on 28th October 2023 at the age of 80. He entered HCS as a boarder in 1954 and, on leaving HCS in 1961, studied music, eventually moving to France. He taught the piano, having become an efficient organist and real 'Francophile'. He always spoke fondly of HCS and the influence of its music, architecture and liturgy. Mike loved dogs. He lived during the latter part of his life in Suresnes, not far from central Paris.

Photo: Deanery lads in 1954, in front of the Wye, which had burst its banks. Michael Wilson is second from left.



JACOB WOODERSON
OH 2007–14

Jacob was born on 30th April 1996 and died suddenly and unexpectedly on 23rd August 2024, to the devastation of all his family and friends.

He attended St Paul's C of E Primary School, where he first developed his love of music, and joined HCS in 2007. He particularly enjoyed the musical opportunities there, playing in the recorder group, the concert band, the orchestra and singing in the choir. He also loved debating and won the Taylor Trophy with his debating partner Rory Turnbull.

He was given an unconditional offer to study Economics at Birmingham University, also gaining a music scholarship, which enabled him to continue to enjoy and develop his clarinet playing.

After completing his Masters, he secured a graduate training placement with the actuarial firm Willis, Towers, Watson and then worked for Standard Life, JP Morgan, and, most recently, Cardano in its risk solutions team.



RICHARD WOORE
OH 1957–63

Richard was director of Steels Westgate for 47 years, so was known to many throughout the city. A funeral service took place at Hereford Cathedral on 14th March 2024.

Richard was born in Stow-on-the-Wold in 1945 but moved to Hereford when he was six months old and lived there all his life. He attended both the Cathedral Prep School and the senior school, 1957–63.

He was dyslexic – not that it held him back in life, but it can sometimes lead you either to pretend you are not in the classroom or to become the class clown. He was the latter; his sense of humour never dimmed. He was an excellent artist and took his art O level a year earlier than normal. Looking at his old school exercise books, his love of cars was very apparent, and in later years his cartoons were something to behold, each with a brilliant quip underneath.

He loved speed, whether on a motorbike or in a saloon car race at Silverstone or one of the other well-known circuits around the country. His passion for cars was to shape his work and much of his pleasure. He, with his business partner Gerry, bought Steels in 1976 and after 47 years the partnership has literally only just ended. Strangely, as the Steels signs were coming down, Richard left us.

They worked hard and laughed harder, and in the old days Steels was known as a social hub for customers and friends alike, with the three-day Christmas parties a highlight of the year. Staff were treated as friends and not just employees, which explains why some stayed with them for over 30 years, and why so many customers stayed faithful once they had crossed the threshold.

Gerry has written that: "Rumour has it that a couple of years after retiring from Steels, a local dealer was advertising for sales staff and Richard applied for the job. He always wrote in black ink with his fountain pen – his handwriting was lovely – but on this occasion he wrote in coloured crayon on lined paper… just for the devilment. He didn't get the job!"

His connection with Hereford Cathedral was to continue when, along with his wife Judy and sons Nicholas and Jonathan, he moved into number 20 Church Street in 1992, and spent the next 32 years living 'next door'. A tragic accident ended Richard's life far too soon. Gone but never forgotten.

adapted by Jonathan Woore (OH 1984–91) from a eulogy by Reverend Canon Christopher Pullin



RICHARD RHODES
13TH OCTOBER 1936
–21ST JANUARY 2024

ANNE RHODES
19TH APRIL 1940
–26TH JANUARY 2024

Richard ('Dick') was HCS Master 1966–2000 and Anne taught at the Prep School 1979–2007.

Richard was born and raised in Otley, West Yorkshire. He attended Prince Henry's Grammar School but then transferred to Leeds Grammar at his mother Dorothy's insistence, in order to be taught Latin. She herself had studied at Homerton in the 1910s and instilled in him a great love for the Classics and for Cambridge.

In 1956, while doing National Service, he was chosen to do an intensive Russian course at JSSL in Crail (Joint Services School for Linguistics) and so was only able to take up his place at Pembroke in 1957 when he was 21. Richard greatly enjoyed student life in Cambridge and was a member of the Cambridge University Musical Society as well as starting his own singing group, 'The Pembroke Sunday Shouters', with three contemporaries.

In his final year he lodged in the same college hostel in Clarendon Street as one Peter Cook and two others. Peter would drop in for tea, crumpets and monologues, memorably on one occasion reading aloud from the Penguin translation of Lucretius' *De Rerum Natura* in what became his EL Wisty voice and hooting over the eccentricity of the text.

It was around this time that Richard met Anne, a student at Homerton, and she became his wife in 1962. They both remembered their college days with great joy and Richard kept abreast of new developments at Pembroke with keen interest and supported the college philanthropically.

In 1966 Richard arrived at Hereford Cathedral School after a few years at Tudor Grange Grammar School in Solihull. He was to spend the rest of his long and varied teaching career there, retiring in 2000. His final headmaster on arriving in 1987, Howard Tomlinson, was astonished to peruse the list of staff and see the initials RGNR after a multitude of different positions. He was Head of Classics and sixth form master, he ran the Debating Club, and managed university entrance and the careers' department. He ran the senior boys' boarding house and founded and directed The Gilbert Consort, an early music group, which he only stopped directing a few years ago. Interested in everything, known by past pupils as a wonderfully eccentric polymath, Richard will be remembered by his family and friends for his wit, wisdom and kindness.

Both Richard and Anne displayed a 'light hand on the tiller' within the Old Deanery. They let the boys know that they knew what was going on, they put trust in the prefects, but not exclusively. They created routines and celebrations, with enough freedom not to feel stifled but gave support when needed. Pupils were treated individually and there have been some very touching messages posted on the Facebook page set up by the school.

It took a long time for Richard and Anne to both properly retire. Richard left HCS officially in 2000 after taking on many tasks during his long career. He also became a governor and was a long serving trustee of the school.

Anne took up a teaching post at the Cathedral Prep School, as it then was, in 1979. She was always reliable and very professional, working at the school through many years of change. She was very level-headed and always loyal to the school. She was a well-respected colleague in the staff room. Generations of former pupils and parents will remember her with great affection. She frequently played the piano in the morning assemblies and was always a positive and encouraging person who looked at the whole child and not just their academic day-to-day existence.

Photos: Richard with Anne at home; Richard (far right) with his music group, The Pembroke Sunday Shouters, at Cambridge University; Richard performing with The Gilbert Consort at HC; young musicians at HCS..



Music has always been at the heart of Hereford Cathedral School.

From its inception over 800 years ago as a school for choristers, the institution has been steeped in musical tradition.



Throughout its long history the sound of music has filled its corridors, as it continues to do today.



FUNDRAISING TO REFRESH THE MUSIC SCHOOL

At the centre of modern-day music making at HCS is No. 31 Castle Street, affectionately known as the Music School. This elegant late 17th-century listed building, set slightly back from the rest of Castle Street, features beautiful stained glass and a tranquil garden. Once the home of the du Buisson family, it was acquired by HCS in 1987. Its 3,500 square feet, plus a sizeable cellar, offer 14 rooms for practice and performance. Instruments include an impressive pipe organ, and the cellar houses extensive libraries of sound recordings and sheet music. The facilities are used by both pupils and members of the public throughout the year.

The School has ambitious plans to renovate the main public areas of the Music School, as well as several rooms, including a refreshed display of all things musical at HCS throughout the stairwells.

Many of you will remember Richard ('Dick') and Anne Rhodes and their involvement with music at the School during their tenures and long afterward. Dick's commitment to the Gilbert Consort was legendary, lasting until just a year or two before his death. If you would like to donate something in memory of Richard, it will go towards renovating a room in his name, where concerts and recitals will be held.

We would be happy to discuss the plans further with any OHs, of course. We are excited about this development and the opportunity to enhance the quality of the world-class education that is offered at Hereford Cathedral School.

If you would like to donate...

Gifts can be made via BACS transfer (ref. Music School Project) to Hereford Cathedral School, account number 00198901, sort code 30-94-14, or via cheque payable to Hereford Cathedral School.

Please inform Mrs Libby Eaves of any donation you make, either in writing addressed to the school or by email to l.eaves@herefordcs.com.

GOOD NEWS!

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

KEELEY TAYLOR (OH 2022)

Congratulations to Keeley, who studied at Chethams School of Music and achieved three Bs as well as a Grade 9 distinction in singing and Diploma in clarinet. Keeley recently made her debut at the BBC Proms with Halle. She has gone on to study Music Performance at Trinity Laban Greenwich.



Photo: Keeley outside Chethams.

HARRIET EDWARDS (OH 2013)

Harriet Edwards started in reception at HCJS in 1999 and left upper sixth form at HCS in 2013. She has recently been appointed Assistant Head Standards and Culture at Didcot Girls School. Part of the Ridgeway Academic Trust, DGS is the largest girls only comprehensive school in Oxfordshire with over 1,600 students.

ROMILY GIDDENS (OH 2017)

Romily Giddens attended HCS from nursery through to sixth form (2003–17) and was a Monitor and Head of the CCF in sixth form. She achieved a 1st Class Honours Degree in Business Management and Accounting from the Open University, graduating in 2021 while working alongside her studies. She is currently Head of Finance for a company specialising in cyber security management systems based in Herefordshire. She married Joshua Hall in December 2023 (see page 27).

DIARY DATES 2024–25

7TH DECEMBER 2024
OH DAY

See insert for details.

17TH MAY 2025
LEAVERS OF 1991 REUNION

In Number 1 from 2pm. RSVP to Helen Pearson h.pearson@herefordcs.com.

15TH MAY 2025
OH GOLF DAY

Provisional date for 22nd meeting at Burghill Valley Golf Club. RSVP to Andrew Singer andrewbsinger@icloud.com.

17TH DECEMBER 2025
YEAR 11 LEAVERS

5–6.30pm. If you would like to find out more please contact Helen Pearson h.pearson@herefordcs.com.

OH ENQUIRIES

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

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

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Design: jessplease.co.uk

Print: Stephens & George Ltd

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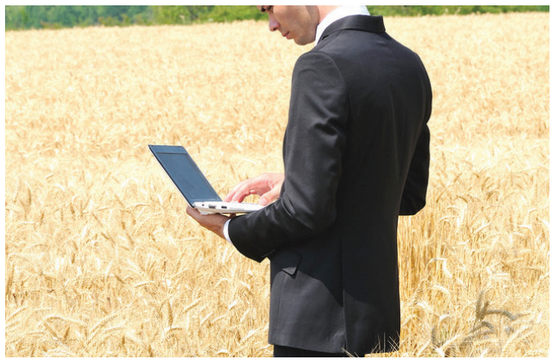
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