

# The OOC

## Mitre



The Magazine  
of Chigwell Alumni  
Issue 15, December 2019



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## The OC Mitre

*This is the official annual magazine for the Old Chigwellian Community. It aims to keep OCs in touch with the School and with each other.*

*The opinions expressed in its columns are those of the writers concerned and not necessarily those of the School.*

## The OC Mitre 2020

*All Old Chigwellians are kindly invited to submit contributions and advertisements for the next issue to the Editor by 1st September 2020.*

## Advertising in The OC Mitre


For our current rates please contact the Editor, Gill Punt: development@chigwell-school.org

Thank you to Pauline Dalton for proofreading the magazine.

*For further information, and to opt into the digital issue, please email development@chigwell-school.org*

Join us on:

 @OldChigwellians

 The Old Chigwellians' Association

Cover photo: Chigwellians' Everest Base Camp Expedition

## Foreword from the President of the OCA



**Entering my second year as President of the OCA there are a lot of achievements to date to reflect upon, as well as plenty to look forward to in the year ahead.**

Supported by members of the OCA Committee we have held a number of diverse events for Old Chigwellians over the course of the year. Highlights include the very well attended OC Black Tie Dinner at the School in March. This was an excellent event hosted by the School, which gave OCs the opportunity to bring along their partner to share the wonderful atmosphere and superb food. This event will be expanded in September 2020 to combine the OC Day, AGM and tours of the School before the Black Tie event. Without sounding

too bias, this OC event is really one not to be missed, so please Save the Date – 12th September 2020!

The Family Fun Day in June saw the collaboration of the Friends Of Chigwell (FOC) with the Old Chigwellian's Association. The FOC certainly produced and provided an enjoyable day filled with two shows within the pop-up circus, inflatable Zorbs, lots of stall holders, Joe Cole in Goal, and face-painting to name a few of the popular elements. From an OC perspective, Pat Ward was the 'star player' who pulled together a well organised OC football tournament with a number of competitive teams. Despite the heat of the day (do you remember the 38+ degree week in late June?), everyone enjoyed themselves and made the day a huge success. In late August the School hosted some pre-season football training against the OC 2nd XI and sixteen OC ladies played hockey against OLHC in early September.

Other OC events have included the Leavers' Chapel Choir evensong at St Paul's Cathedral, the Royal Parks Half Marathon, City drinks as our annual pre-Christmas get-together, the Tower of London

Ceremony of the Keys (which is always very popular) and the OC Lunch Club monthly events. Each of these events appeals to various age groups as we strive hard to continue engagement with all Old Chigwellians.

It is really important to ensure we maintain our OC network – as OCA Committee members we work in partnership with the School to offer a range of events which provide access to invariably successful and experienced Old Chigwellians. Tapping into this wealth of knowledge and experience is becoming increasingly valued. So if you would like to become involved with the OCA or just fancy a chat to express your views, please do get in touch with me via [agn.c@btinternet.com](mailto:agn.c@btinternet.com).

I look forward to seeing you at the next Shrove Tuesday Supper on the 25th February 2020 – as always it's good to see the familiar faces and equally encouraging to meet OCs who have been unable to attend as regularly. You will always receive a warm welcome from both the School and myself as we embark on another year of progression.

**Aegean Thompson**  
(1985-1988)

## Forthcoming OC Events

**Recent Leavers' Christmas Party**  
16th December 2019

**OC Tower of London Trip**  
18th December 2019

**Shrove Tuesday Supper**  
25th February 2020

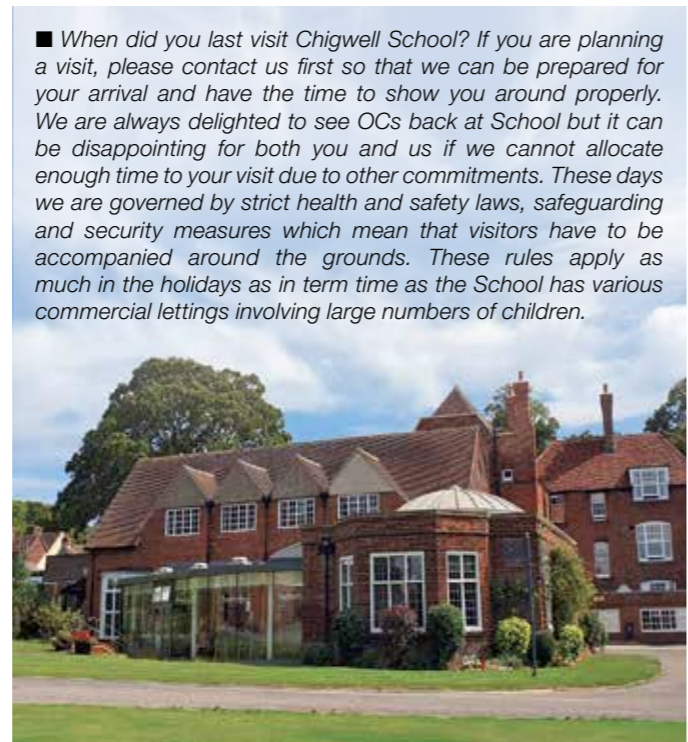
**Annual Careers Convention**  
23rd March 2020

**Chigwell Ball**  
4th July 2020

**OC Day**  
12th September 2020

**OCA Black Tie Dinner**  
12th September 2020

For further details see the OC section of our website [www.chigwell-school.org](http://www.chigwell-school.org)



■ *When did you last visit Chigwell School? If you are planning a visit, please contact us first so that we can be prepared for your arrival and have the time to show you around properly. We are always delighted to see OCs back at School but it can be disappointing for both you and us if we cannot allocate enough time to your visit due to other commitments. These days we are governed by strict health and safety laws, safeguarding and security measures which mean that visitors have to be accompanied around the grounds. These rules apply as much in the holidays as in term time as the School has various commercial lettings involving large numbers of children.*

## Message from the Headmaster



**Welcome to the 2019 edition of The OC Mitre. I hope you find the various articles on the pages that follow interesting, they bring back memories of your time at school and they provide an insight into what is happening at Chigwell today.**

I always find it fascinating to see how many varied paths Chigwellians follow on leaving the School and indeed we have used this as the basis of our new 'Meet The Future' programme.

Once again, 2019 has been a very busy year for staff and pupils, all 970 of them. GCSE and A level results in the

summer were very impressive, as you will read, with GCSE results being the best ever. It continues to be important to us that we develop the whole person and the ever-growing programme of extra-curricular activities, sport, outdoor pursuits and the arts help, we believe, to shape pupils into the versatile people that the world of the 21st century needs. This programme of opportunities extends beyond the school gates and the front cover illustrates Chigwellians close to the roof of the world on the expedition to Everest Base Camp.

Roofs close to home have been very much in our minds over the last twelve months. New roofs have been fitted to the oldest parts of the School and we have worked hard to ensure that the work is in keeping with the historic buildings of which we are so fond. Meanwhile, as we continue to develop our facilities we have added three new Junior School classrooms and refurbished the Dining Hall servery, which some of you may have seen if you have attended OC events in school.

**Michael Punt**

## Welcome from the Development Office



**Flicking through the proof on my desk as I write this introduction, I am struck at the many and varied ways in which Old Chigwellians have made their mark on the world.**

I hope you enjoy this issue of *The OC Mitre* as much as I have enjoyed putting it together. Please do let us know what you think – this is your magazine, and we would love to hear your

ideas and input, which will help us make future issues just as compelling.

Chigwell School is committed to providing important and life-changing opportunities through bursaries. The Development Office is keen to facilitate these transformational bursaries for pupils in need of financial support. If you would like to be involved then please contact the Development Office. Many Old Chigwellians benefitted from a direct grant or assisted place during their time at Chigwell, and may wish to enable the next generation of Chigwell School pupils to receive the same opportunities that they were given.

The Development Office manages a programme of alumni events annually, including formal dinners, city drinks and networking events.

We always welcome your assistance, ideas and support for these events to make them as welcoming and appropriate as possible. In addition, the Development Office is building Facebook and LinkedIn communities specifically for Old Chigwellians. Please do continue to join the conversation on the OC Facebook page @OldChigwellians.

Finally, the Development Office is always willing to assist with queries and welcomes Old Chigwellians back to School for a visit whenever they are in Chigwell.

I look forward to seeing you at some of our forthcoming events and hope you enjoy the magazine.

**Gill Punt, Development Manager**  
[development@chigwell-school.org](mailto:development@chigwell-school.org)



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**CHIGWELL SCHOOL**  
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A glimpse into the Chigwell School year...

# ART...



# SPORT...



# DRAMA...





# Speech Day 2019

The annual Chigwell Speech Day took place with events relating to all pupils in the School.

On the Friday afternoon, there was a service of celebration in St Mary's Church led by Chaplain Rev. Gary Scott, for pupils in Reception to Year 4, and this was followed by a garden party in the Pre Prep. Saturday morning saw two services for the remaining Juniors and Seniors, at which the preacher was Dr Diana Lowry. Prize giving itself took place in the marquee on Top

Field on Saturday afternoon and the guest of honour was Dr Charlie Laderman OC. Charlie studied History and Politics at the University of Nottingham and went on to complete a PhD at Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge. He was later a Research Fellow at Peterhouse College, Cambridge, and is currently a lecturer in International History at King's College, London. His research focuses on the United States and its relations with the wider world. Later in the evening, the annual Chigwell ball took place for leavers and parents.



# Chigwell Celebrates...

## A Level Results

Chigwell School sixth form students and their teachers celebrated excellent A level results. In a year where the number of students obtaining the top grades nationally dropped, at Chigwell almost half of all grades achieved were either A\* or A, approximately double the national average. 27% of all students achieved at least three A grades and the most common grade achieved across all students and subjects was a grade A. In addition to their three or four A level subjects, a quarter of the year group took the Extended Project Qualification which involves a significant piece of independent research and counts for half an A level, and of these two thirds achieved an A\* or A grade.

Although a small number of students progressed to employment or took a gap year, the vast majority left Chigwell to begin university courses. Some two thirds moved on to Russell Group universities including Oxford, Cambridge, Exeter, Nottingham, UCL and Durham; a few left to study abroad. This year three students took up places in



the United States at New York University, The University of Michigan and the prestigious Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Speaking as they collected their results, a number of students reflected on their time at Chigwell:

*"Small classes have meant lots of one-to-one time."*

*"The Sixth Form helps you prepare for university and the real world, people are always there to give you advice, and*

*Chigwell gives you as much support as you want."*

*"I am very happy with my results and I got into my first choice university."*

*"I think the teaching has been really helpful, especially the hours outside of the timetable."*

*"My advice would be to get involved and to make the very most of teachers and opportunities."*

Headmaster, Mr Michael Punt, said: "We are very proud of our students who have worked

hard to fulfil their potential, and it was great to see so many, so pleased with their results and the places that they have secured for the next phase of their lives. The results marked the end of the students' time at Chigwell and they have been valuable members of our community contributing a great deal to the wider life of the School. We will miss them as individuals and as a very cohesive year group. We wish them every future success and will follow their ongoing progress with interest."

## Record GCSE Results

The publication of GCSE results was the source of much celebration amongst pupils, teachers and parents. In a year when the exams, in a new format, were widely reported to be more challenging, Chigwell pupils performed really well.

79% of all grades were at 7 (equivalent to the old A grade) or above, nearly four times the national average. 68% of pupils achieved at least eight grade 7s and 30% achieved at least eight grade 8s. 10% of all candidates achieved all grade 8s and 9s, and the most common grade achieved was an 8. Those pupils who took a Higher Project Qualification in addition to their ten GCSEs, all achieved A\* or A grades.

Mr Michael Punt, Headmaster, commented: "Students and their teachers, supported by their parents, have worked really hard to achieve this success and it has definitely

been a team effort. To have a quarter of all results at the highly prized grade 9 is such an achievement and these young people can move into the next phase of their

education with confidence and ambition. For the majority, that means moving into our Sixth Form to study A levels and we look forward to working with them over the next two years."

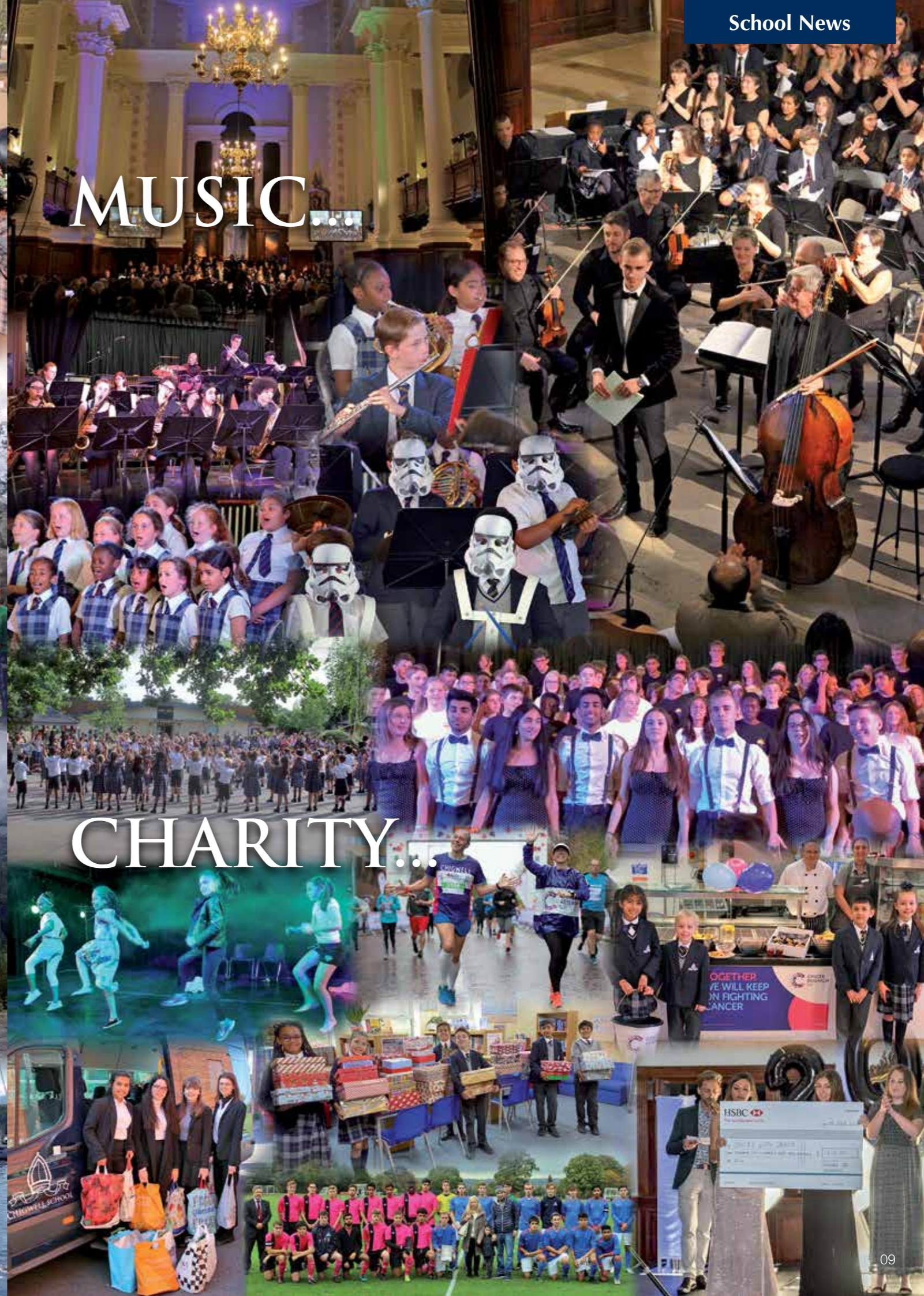




# OUT & ABOUT...



# MUSIC



# CHARITY...





# Old School Roof Repair Project

by James Rea, Bursar

The major building work that has dominated the Old School buildings around Front and Chapel Quads for the past year is now finished. All the scaffolding and temporary roof structures have been removed and the patience of students, staff and parents has been rewarded by the remarkable improvement to the buildings' condition.

The Old School is an important set of historic buildings that is also part of the Chigwell Village conservation area. Its Grade II\* status, which Historic England defines as 'particularly important buildings of more than special interest', is shared with only 5.8% of all listed buildings across the country.

The oldest part of the building – the main range facing Front Quad – dates from the 1620s. Originally this housed the only two classrooms, now the library, as well as the Latin

Master's house. From these early beginnings the Old School buildings evolved through eighteenth, nineteenth and twentieth-century extensions and alterations to become the quirky and characterful complex we see today.

Guided by West Scott Architects the project saw the comprehensive renewal of life-expired roof coverings across the whole of the Old School complex, in accordance with the detailed stipulations set down by Historic England. Major repairs to the historic timber roof structure were required to address long-standing decay from past (and some very recent) roof leaks.

High-level masonry, such as chimneys and roof parapets, always bears the brunt of bad weather and significant degradation had occurred over the years. Damaged bricks and eroded stonework have

been replaced and brickwork repointed. Nine chimney stacks have been refurbished, including the three very tall chimneys facing Chapel Quad where structural reinforcement has been introduced, securing the future of these important historical features.

In accordance with the permission to undertake the work granted by Historic England, and as befits a building of this importance, traditional materials and techniques were employed in the work, which was completed under the expert supervision of the contractors, Universal Stone Ltd. Oak was used to repair parts of the 400-year-old library roof; lime mortar for repointing; and traditional lead work for gutter linings and dormer window cladding. Over 60,000 handmade roof tiles have been supplied from a manufacturer in Kent.

Specially made bricks have been sourced from firms in Sussex and Suffolk, while new stonework has been produced in-house at Universal Stone's own yard in Essex.

The project has also provided an opportunity to carry out much-needed energy efficiency improvements to the buildings. Insulation has been fitted to the roofs – in this case a natural sheep's wool product manufactured in Cumbria – and worn-out roof glazing has been replaced with heritage-style systems that both reduce heat loss and improve outward appearance.

Much of the completed project can now be appreciated from ground level but many parts remain hidden from general view. The photographs that follow provide a closer look at the work carried out to conserve the heritage of Chigwell School for the future.



■ Front Quad before the work started. From ground level the extent of roofing defects was not immediately apparent, but the buildings had a decidedly tired appearance. The roof above the library was the highest priority area, but despite decay in the rafter-ends caused by long-standing roof leaks, the majority of the 400-year-old oak framing remained in good condition.



■ A closer view shows the badly weathered condition of chimney stacks.



■ The same chimney following partial reconstruction and repair with roof tiling work ongoing. Note the reinstated chimney pots to the stack on the right.



■ Roof coverings were all life-expired, in this case to the hidden valley over the bursary.



■ The same roof after removal of the coverings. Following clearance of debris from the left spaces, timber repairs were carried out and sheep's wool insulation installed.



■ The near complete roof above the bursary with new handmade roof tiles stacked out awaiting installation.



■ Decorative 'tuck-pointing' to brick arches of the Caswells' House Room windows.





■ Timber repairs underway on the 1620s library roof. Having been reinforced with stainless steel brackets to secure the roof more firmly to the walls, the historic structure now has many more years of useful service ahead of it.



■ High-level stonework had badly eroded, in this case a finial cross from the gable end of Lambourne's and Caswalls' House Rooms, seen here awaiting re-installation following repairs.



■ Before and after views showing the Front Quad side of the library roof. The dormer windows in the library roof have had new traditionally detailed casements fitted. The tops and sides of the dormers are clad in lead work.



■ Restoration work to a historic lead rainwater hopper on the library prior to painting and reinstatement.



■ New oak sprockets were made to form the library roof eaves detail on the Chapel Quad side. The housing for the school bell, located behind one of the chimney stacks, has also been overhauled.



■ The near-complete library roof, with the repaired and reinforced tall chimneys on the right. The roofing is a mix of three colours of hand-made plain clay tile made in Kent.



# Head to Head by Heads of School (1979) and (2019-20)

**By Rob Leiper (1973-1979)**

Forty years ago the year of 1979 had the UK experiencing widespread industrial unrest and the 'Winter of Discontent', inflation running at over 13% and Margaret Thatcher coming to power as the UK's first female Prime Minister. Liverpool won the old First Division, Nottingham Forest the European Cup and at the start of the year England had beaten Australia 5-1 in Australia to retain the Ashes.

1979 was also the 350th anniversary of the founding of Chigwell School. It presented a wonderful opportunity to showcase the school and to raise its profile. Significant planning and effort would go into making this a very special year for the school and some of the responsibility for making sure things went smoothly would fall to the group of prefects who had the good fortune to be there at this time.

Planning for how the school would celebrate had started in the previous year and I was invited on to the planning committee as student representative. As well as the planned events the concept of a School Song was first raised at those meetings. Written specifically to be sung for the first time at the 350th anniversary celebrations it is good to know that one of the ideas that we agreed then is still in common use at the school. Unfortunately, I still do not know the words or the tune and that, at least in the eyes of my daughter Hannah who was at the school recently, means that I cannot really claim to be a proper Old Chigwellian.

It is undoubtedly a huge honour to be Head of School, and it provides opportunities and challenges that will almost certainly be very useful in later life. For me, and probably many others, public speaking was and still is one of the most nerve-wracking. The Shrove Tuesday address to assembled Old Chigwellians was the first official occasion I had to contend with. I knew

I had to prepare well and wrote something broadly acceptable. But the valuable lesson I learned, too late, was deciding what to do with your hands when on a stage delivering a speech. Even though I felt reasonably calm and my voice was level the hand holding my notes would not stop shaking. There is a reason people use cards and even lecterns and not floppy pieces of A4! Luckily this particular audience were sympathetic and I got through the experience.

The most important organisational tasks to get right were those to do with Speech Day. I am sure this is the case every year but the 350th anniversary just meant that everything had to be a little bigger and better than usual. There was a lot to do involving getting students and parents and equipment to the right places at the right times. It did take a lot of organisation but it did go well and even now forty years later I still look back on that day with a degree of pride knowing that the prefects group did a great job. Speech Day 1979 was a great success.

So what makes a good Head of School? When the powers that be consider the potential candidates what are they looking for? I am sure that varies from person to person but in my case I have to think it was more to do with my



abilities on a sports field rather than anything I did (or did not do) academically. I could lead a team. I was and still am a relatively organised person and I knew I could represent the school well in any given situation. But there were many others in my academic year with those qualities. There were certainly many a lot brighter than me. Whatever the reasons I have always been very grateful for the honour of being given that role in such a significant year for the school. In 2029, ten years from now, the school will be celebrating its 400th anniversary and someone, possibly already at the school, will be handed the chance to be Head of School. I hope they enjoy it as much as I did.

I mentioned the quality of being organised. It strikes me that this is one of the most important learned skills needed by any student these days. It certainly

helps with the inevitable juggling of schoolwork, revision, sport, house and prefect tasks and all the other priorities that sixth form students are expected to fulfil at school. Then there are the extracurricular activities that everyone is encouraged to engage in to give their academic profile a more rounded look. The modern student has little choice but to be organised. I thought that school was hard work in my last two years, but when I see what is expected of students these days I have to be honest and say that we probably had it easy. There were no school league tables for exam results and although everyone was striving to do their best I do feel that there is far more pressure on students now than there was forty years ago. I am equally sure, and anyone my age or older will back me up, that our exam papers were harder.



**By Joseph Ahern (2009-present), Current Head of School**

I joined Chigwell 11 years ago and I cannot imagine what my life would have been like if I had gone elsewhere. The wide range of opportunities that this school has offered me have contributed greatly to the person I am today, in my last year of School.

I have a passion for sport and I have been able to embrace this passion, playing 1st team football, hockey and cricket for two years as well as representing the school at age group matches and tournaments throughout my time here. With the school, I have played in a regional hockey final and reached the IAPS national swimming finals two years in a row. However, the highlight was almost without doubt visiting St. George's Park, England football's iconic training ground, for the national final of the ISFA Small Schools Cup. My sporting commitments with the school have pushed me to reach my full potential outside of school as well; I have played regional level hockey and made my debut for the men's 1st team at Old Loughtonians in the National League at the age of 16. At age level hockey for club, I have captained the U16s to national finals (both indoor and outdoor) and won the U18s England Cup. My sporting accomplishments, both inside and outside of

school, have provided me with intrinsic levels of self-discipline and motivation which have aided me with my academic studies. During my GCSE's, I felt an hour of exercise a day gave me the motivation I needed to succeed and do well in my exams.

Despite learning to play the piano in primary school, my musical talent is very limited – perhaps due to my huge involvement in sport. However, this is not a reflection on the music department which would have given me the opportunity to continue with the piano or to learn how to play another instrument, as well as perform in various groups such as the choir.



Although my expertise is not in music, it hasn't stopped me from singing in house music, possibly one of the biggest events in the school calendar. This event, along with the other house competitions, such as the house water polo and general knowledge quiz, have helped me feel incorporated within the school society and socialise with other people outside my year group.

Chigwell has given me the experience of other cultures and societies by giving the students the opportunity to go on tours and trips abroad. I have been lucky enough to go to a wide variety of different places such as a ski trip to America, a history trip to Auschwitz, a Spanish trip to Barcelona amongst many other European countries. My favourite would have to be the hockey tour to Singapore and Malaysia. Not only did I get the opportunity to experience the fantastic culture of the two countries and see the beautiful sights, I also got the opportunity to play my favourite sport, albeit in very demanding conditions.

The Drama Centre has helped me build my confidence and personality. I was always interested in acting when I was in the junior school and I played the role of Wendy's father, Mr Darling, in *Peter Pan* in Year 8. Even though I didn't continue with drama for my

GCSEs, I feel that it has given me the public speaking skills that I need in my role as Head of School.

After many months weighing up the pros and cons of many different degree choices, such as Spanish and Economics, I have finally come to the conclusion that I would like to read Economics at university. I know for a fact that every student would agree with me when I state that the whole UCAS process is very stressful and choosing the right degree and right university for yourself is a very important one. I do believe that my teachers and Head of Sixth Form have provided me with the helping hand I need to make such a paramount decision and get through the stressful period.

I am so proud to be able to say I am the Head of Chigwell School and so thankful, not only for the appointment, but also for everything the school has offered me and the person it has shaped me to become. People frequently ask me what the feeling will be when I leave school in a few months' time, but I have never really given it much thought. Although I will be filled with excitement to be heading off to university, looking back at all the memories and friends that the school has given me, I will certainly be upset yet honoured to have represented a school such as Chigwell.



# Leading The New Field of Integrative Health

by Naveed Akhtar (1990-1997)



Complementary therapies are becoming ever more popular in the medical field, with patients using therapies to reduce symptoms or side effects, as a natural healing therapy or as emotional coping mechanisms. Empowering and educating people about self-care, helping people to work on the root cause instead of the symptom and showing people that there are complementary ways to support the body and mind other than just via a prescription is fundamental. Integrative Health is the joining of Conventional Western Medicine and Complementary Therapies.

The Integrative Health Convention, now in its second year, was supported by the Earl and Countess of Devon, and in association with the College of Medicine, is helping to raise the profile of Complementary Therapies that are appropriate, successful and safe – bridging the gap with Conventional Western Medicine.

The convention, co-organised by Dr Naveed Akhtar brought together experts from over 30 different fields of Complementary Health & Medicine to share their knowledge over two full days with topics ranging from Acupuncture to Ayurveda, Massage to Mindfulness, Nutrition to Hypnosis,

Psychology to Qigong, and many more.

The Convention, which is the largest Integrative Health event in the UK brought together over 200 individuals, some flying in from USA, India and Europe, all interested in such therapies to Share, Learn and Connect with a huge variety

of healthcare professionals coming together to find out better ways for people to get better using more than just one form of health or healing.

Social prescribing is being heavily supported and promoted by NHS England and Dr Michael Dixon (National Clinical Lead Social Prescribing at NHS England) delivered a truly inspiring keynote speech this year.

*“From the start of the conference, attendees felt connected and inspired by the same shared values – a true desire to help people, to make a difference, an absolute commitment to give the best care, have the courage to create change and a willingness to learn and work together.”*

This year, we gave the opportunity for Chigwell School sixth formers who are interested in applying for medicine to attend the convention and help out behind the scenes. They were exposed to the inner workings of how to put together and run an international convention and were able to listen to some very influential and inspirational speakers.

<http://integrativehealthconvention.co.uk>



# From Chigwell to Music Dept. Chair via Chicago

by Gurminder Bhogal (1990-1992)

I am happy to learn that Chigwell School celebrated twenty years of co-educational learning in 2017. I was at Chigwell when it was a boys' school that admitted girls into the sixth form. It's probably understandable then that my initial feeling of excitement gave way to mild horror when I began to calculate exactly how many years it had been since I had left Chigwell (twenty-seven is the answer). As I began to think about my time as a music scholar in 1990-1992, a rush of memories came flooding back to me. I realised how deeply embedded Chigwell School is in my mind even though I was only there for two years. I remember the wonderful people who made every day really special: the inspiring and nurturing headmaster, Tony Little, who attended many of my concerts at school, and came all the way into town on a Sunday to hear my chamber music group – comprised of the incredible musicians, Samuel Tewunga and Stuart Hancock. I remember Headmaster Little pointing in the direction of St Paul's Cathedral when I came to visit the school—"you can see the Cathedral on a clear day," I can hear him saying to my mum and me as we walked the immaculate school grounds during a private tour. I close my eyes and can see, as clear as crystal, the brilliant young women who were part of my cohort: in the music school, Georgina Carpenter and Rachel Goldsmith; in biology class, Gemma Aylward; in Penn, our head girl, Amelia Smith; and my kindred spirit in the arts, the painter, Kirsten Rothey, who was a cherished guest at my wedding in Goa in 2003. I remember our year group as being hard-working and supportive towards one another.

The superb teachers at Chigwell worked hard to ensure that we were all securely set on our chosen paths for the next phase of our

lives. Helping us get into our universities/colleges of choice was a top priority. Equally important, however, was their desire to educate us – in the broadest sense of the word – by giving us a range of skills that would serve us no matter what life threw at us in the years to come. Although I was headed for the Royal College of Music to study the piano, I didn't know that I would find myself in a job, years later, where I spend much of my time engaging in writing, listening to music, critical reading, and administrating. After completing my PhD at the University of Chicago in 2004 (where I bumped into fellow Penn, Eric Chau, who was completing his MBA, and received a visit from another exceptional Penn, Eric Kol), I landed a job at Wellesley College, a women's liberal arts college based just outside Boston. As a professor of music, my research focuses on early 20th-century French music and visual art. I have recently published my second book (on Claude Debussy's *Clair de Lune*) and am currently co-teaching a seminar called, *Music and Sound in Video Games*, in addition to serving as department chair.

It is a privilege and a joy to have the opportunity to teach brilliant young women who come to our campus from all over the world. The greatest strength of a liberal arts education is that it promotes learning across disciplines, so while I teach undergraduates who are focused on music, I also teach students who have interests in such diverse fields as Neuroscience, Sociology, Swahili, International Relations, Computer Science, Economics, etc. Interacting with students from diverse backgrounds in terms of intellectual interests, socio-economic standing, culture, and gender expression, encourages me to stay open-minded and curious. I finish every lecture with more questions than I started with,

a situation that reminds me how seizing the opportunity to learn is what brings expression and offers direction in my life.

These recollections remind me of reading Shakespeare's *Richard II*, *Henry IV Parts I and II*, D.H. Lawrence's *The Rainbow*, and T.S. Eliot's *The Wasteland*, during English. These titles roll off the tip of my tongue – I throw them out as if I can recite these texts, word for word. This is far from the truth. I can barely remember the characters and the plots, but my memory of how I felt as I read these narratives and poems is visceral and synaesthetic; during those afternoons, the lush green hills of Lawrence's countryside intermingled with Chigwell's scenic landscape in my imagination. I had no idea that the skills I was learning would transform my thinking as a grown up: extracting details from a narrative and subjecting them to scrutiny; summarising complicated arguments; stepping inside another character's shoes and looking at the world from their perspective. These are things I do every day. And I'm assuming many of you do, too.

I find the last one of these especially challenging as I grow older (and more stuck in my ways), even as I understand the importance of self-critique. When I allow myself to view situations from positions that are not naturally my own, I realise how fortunate I have been: fortunate that when I auditioned at Chigwell (having missed the deadline), Mr Nicholas went immediately to Headmaster Little to see if they could arrange a music scholarship without which I wouldn't have been able to attend the school and study the piano with the exceptional pianist, Ms Eileen Broster, who prepared me for my auditions at the Royal College of Music. At every step of the way, there was a kind soul who saw my determination and opened a door for me (Mr Bradley, Mr Ballance, Dr Burd, Mrs



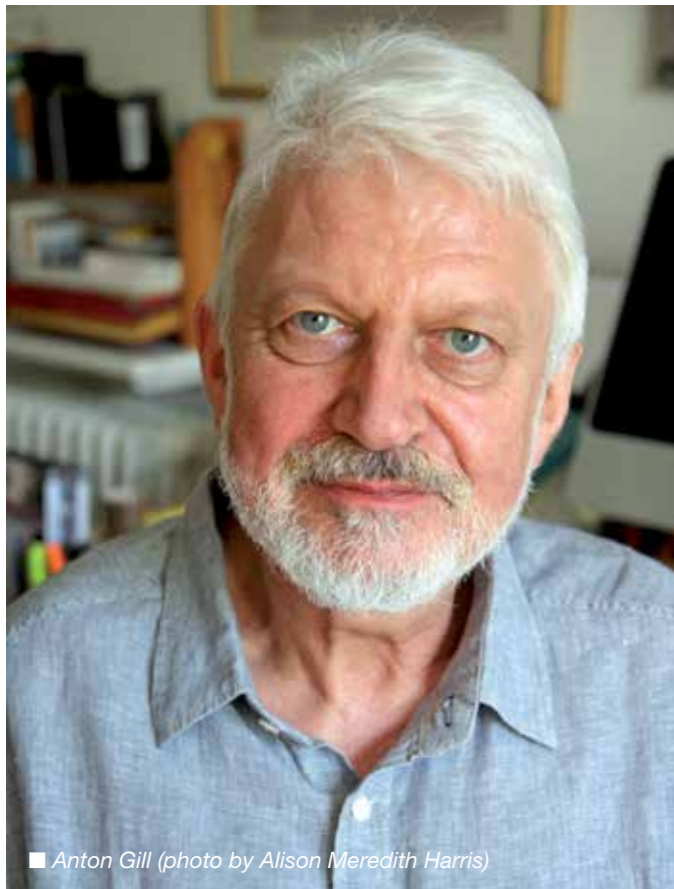
Nicholson, and many others). I try to do the same because I also meet women for whom education is not a given, but a tremendous opportunity to change their lives and the lives of many others.

Living in the States, I find myself thinking frequently about privilege as I give thanks for what I have, and I see how socio-economic inequalities and other types of discrimination prevent many other deserving young people from reaching their potential. I live in Boston with my husband and my eleven-year-old twin boys. Every day, I remember there is much to be grateful for. Chigwell School helped me to identify my path and then gave me the tools to forge it, while my fellow students and teachers encouraged me rise to the challenge and be prepared to tackle the obstacle courses that I would inevitably have to navigate. I am inspired by the dedication and willingness with which Chigwell alumni carry forth their education to help others in the world. I will always be grateful to Chigwell, and I hope that if any current students are reading this they will, when they are ready, reflect on their good fortune and find ways to help others thrive, as many generations of Old Chigwellians have done before them.

*Gurminder K. Bhogal is Catherine Mills Davis Chair in Music at Wellesley College near Boston, USA.*



# The Story So Far... *by Anton Gill (1960-1966)*



■ Anton Gill (photo by Alison Meredith Harris)

for its associations back then – the British were not unforgiving – as owing to the fact that no one could pronounce or spell it. I started off as a boarder but switched to a day boy as my parents moved closer to the school. Our brilliant English master, David Ballance, directed a play by Henri Ghéon called *The Farce of the Devil's Bridge*. I played the Devil and I was hooked. I knew then that what I wanted later on was to go into the theatre. I never wavered. When Ken Campbell came to talk to us, and when students from the nearby East-15 Acting School came to visit, I was bewitched. I did as much drama as I could inside school (and I was doubly lucky in that there was a strong emphasis on drama at Chigwell) and outside. Meanwhile I played in a B-football team for my house and got the nickname Hacker because I went for the shins in a tackle. I also got on with my work, did my A-levels in English, French and German, wrote a bit of poetry, some of which got published, and, in my last term, which was Michaelmas, 1966, got a place at Clare College, Cambridge.

I plumped for Cambridge rather than drama school because Cambridge was pumping people into the theatre in those days. Cambridge was bliss and a great place to develop acting and directing. I worked on John Whiting's *Penny for a Song* with David Hare; and Salman Rushdie taught me to punt; E.M. Forster twinkled at us rehearsing *All's Well That Ends Well* in Clare Gardens. Halcyon stuff. I spent most of my time acting and directing with the university's drama clubs – and a bonus was that within *them*, the sexes were equal both in number and importance.

But it came to an end and the *jeunesse dorée* came down with a bump. The theatre, it turned out, was full of competitors, and they'd been professionally trained. I learned precisely what big

fish in small pond meant, fast. But there's white water all the time: you just have to try to navigate it. I worked at East 15 as a production manager, then toured with a company doing dramatisations of Kipling for primary schools from Liverpool to Gateshead, driving a battered VW minibus all over what seemed like an eternally rainy northern England with three female colleagues. After that, I got a job as an assistant director at the Royal Court Theatre in Sloane Square, and felt I'd arrived at last.

This was more like it. Working with front-rank directors and actors when the English Stage Company was at its peak. I kicked off with *Hedda Gabler*, in an adaptation by John Osborne and starring his then wife, Jill Bennett. Plays by Edna O'Brien and David Storey came next, directed by Ronald Eyre and Lindsay Anderson, but the high point was working with Anthony Page on a Samuel Beckett double-bill: *Krapp's Last Tape*, and the world premiere of *Not I*. Sam arrived about halfway through rehearsals and almost without meaning to, took over. He wasn't altogether happy with Albert Finney's interpretation of Krapp, calling it 'serviceable'. (He wasn't one to mince words: he called my first stage play 'sloppy'.) With Billie Whitelaw, who played Voice in *Not I*, it was altogether different. They'd worked together before and the atmosphere between them was electric. I don't think I've felt so privileged in being part of the creation of a piece of theatre since.



■ Graduation Day, 1970 (with Mike Walsh)



■ The visit of Princess Margaret, 1966. HRH talks to Anton Gill, and is accompanied by Donald Thompson and the Revd Parry Davenport

But you can't stay too long in one place. I left to run an experimental theatre in Geneva, then returned to the Court to direct my own first play (the sloppy one) in the Theatre Upstairs. Then I went to Greenwich Theatre as John Osborne's associate director on a trilogy of his plays: two new ones, *The End of Me Old Cigar*, and an adaptation of *The Picture of Dorian Gray*; and *The Entertainer*, with Max Wall, too successfully funny to be a real Archie Rice, but a joy to work with.

I'd worked up a collective-creation play about François Villon with the actors in Geneva, and now I made a proper piece of it. The Bühnen der Stadt Köln took it up and Hansgünther Heyme directed it, opening a season with it. It was a massive production with huge ups and downs, the first real love of my life in the form of one of the assistant directors, and at least a respectable critical response: they weren't over the moon, but they didn't flush it down the pan either.

Then there was a miserable time of unemployment, leavened by six months in the BBC's Radio Drama department, reading scripts, deciding which might be up for production. I then made a bad career move, though it was still interesting, and got a steady job with the Arts Council, looking after

trainee directors and writers' bursaries. I felt like a poacher-turned-gamekeeper at times, but I stuck it for two years until the BBC offered me the job of running a Radio 2 daily soap opera called *Waggoners' Walk*, set in Hampstead and centred on a local journalist's family and their friends. Money and influence for two more years and an enormous amount of fun, working with a consumer affairs programme and dramatising some of their stories for the soap – we also worked with the NSPCC and other organisations to bring real events as sympathetically as possible to the attention of our listeners. During my time at the Beeb I wrote and directed a fair number of plays and features as well as running *Waggoners' Walk*, which had a big audience, but one day an executive decision from on high axed the soap and I was out of work again.

Not for long. Next it was a brief turn working at *The Archers*. Soon afterwards, I took a holiday in Egypt and there I met my first wife – she was working for Royal Jordanian Airlines at the time but jumped ship and we married six months afterwards. For most of the next fourteen years we had fun, and travelled everywhere.

After doing a couple of plays (one of my own) for Norddeutscher Rundfunk in Hamburg, my last proper job was with TV-am, the first commercial breakfast TV station, which I joined when it opened, and worked on, variously, the celebrity desk as a fixer, the film review slot as producer – a peach of a job and a nice presenter to work with in Paul Gambaccini – and as producer/editor/all-round gopher on their short-lived daily soap opera, *The World of Melanie Parker*. But it was not a niche for me, and I left to go freelance, finally, thirty-five years ago almost to the day, as I write this. And became a writer – though I'd always done some writing – almost by accident.

I won't bore you with a huge list of the books. I started with non-fiction, which I really enjoyed: travelling, interviewing



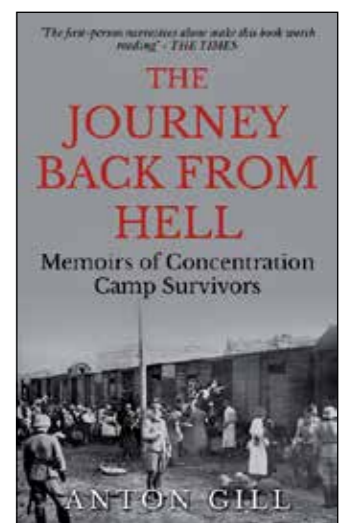
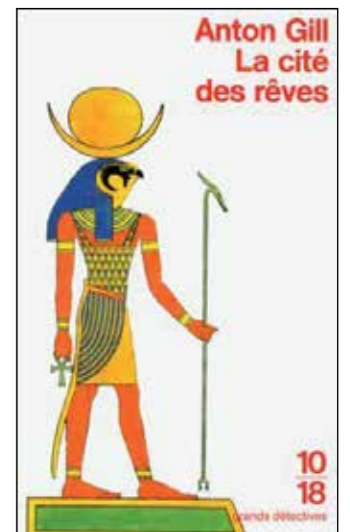
■ Budding playwright - Cologne, 1975 (The Life and Death of François Villon)

all kinds of people all over the place, getting first-hand material which can never be gleaned again – one interview in the Netherlands with an Auschwitz survivor took 15 hours straight. That survivor appears in the first book of real importance, *The Journey Back from Hell*, which will probably be my grave-marker since I won't better it. I talked to nearly 200 survivors of the Nazi concentration camps over two years. One thing that sticks in my mind is that Simon Wiesenthal said to me: 'I ask myself, why aren't there more people like me, doing what I do?' The resilience of those people and their courage in getting out from under the enormity of their experience is something I'll never forget: but they were the fortunate ones; they managed it.

*The Journey Back...* led to *A Dance Between Flames*, a socio-political study of Berlin between 1918 and 1939, and *An Honourable Defeat*, about the German Resistance to Hitler; and to Berlin to Bucharest – a travel book about the Eastern Bloc as it crumbled at the end of the 1980s. The rather anaemic title is a swap. The original was *Under Red Stars* – but by the time the book went to print, the USSR and the Eastern Bloc were, like the Berlin Wall, gone. There were no red stars to be under any more.

I'd better stop now. I could tell you about the branching out into fiction, which has been a challenge, though not without its rewards, and I'd like to mention the series of six thrillers set in post-Akhenaten Egypt, c.1300BC, and the

novel about the German Resistance, *Into Darkness* (another awful title change – it should have been *The Sleep of Reason*, but publishers do these things. Why?). I'd like you to read *Il Gigante*, about Michelangelo, and *Art Lover*, about Peggy Guggenheim. I'd like to tell you about my second marriage to the actor Margi Campi, and the ten years we spent living in Paris. But there isn't space. So there!





# Working In Whitehall Is Never Dull

by Isabella Bird (2005-2012)



Power battles, personality clashes, raging turf wars – working in Whitehall is never dull... and that's just Larry and Palmerston. I knew I had made the right career choice when, on my first day in a new role, I found myself sharing an office with the country's most famous felines. From distributing cat treats to separating warring moggies, the responsibilities of a civil servant, as I've found out, are many...

My career plans at the age of 18 were somewhat vague, to say the least! Having happily filled my days at school with piano-playing, choir, and languages, the prospect of embarking on post-Chigwellian life choices was rather daunting. However,

having chosen to study French and German, I soon settled into life at Warwick University, where I threw myself into my degree and again, much music-making. The degree took me to Würzburg University in Bavaria, for a wonderful year immersing myself in all things German, and to the South of France, where I spent a glorious, if not rather hazy, summer working in a winery in the little Provençal village of Cotignac. Memories of performances with the Würzburg Monteverdi Choir, and of balmy evenings supping samples of next year's blend, saw me through the challenges of my final year, a jam-packed eight months in which, while juggling revision,

dissertations and a busy extra-curricular schedule, thoughts inevitably turn to the niggling question of 'what on earth next?'...

It wasn't until the following year, while getting my teeth into a Master's in International Relations at Durham (a move which, among other things, allowed me to successfully postpone such decisions for a few precious months!), that the first next steps seemed to become clearer. Studying IR trained me in critical analysis and research, led me to investigate the complexities of relationships between different countries and multinational bodies, and helped enhance those skills in intercultural and global awareness that my foreign language study had fostered. Significantly, it gave me a comprehensive grounding in the organisation and running of political systems, teaching me how the policies of individual nations can have a profound international impact.

During my early undergraduate years, the possibility of working somewhere which allowed these skills to be used on a day-to-day basis didn't even feature on my radar. I knew that going into politics definitely wasn't for me (I'm not sure my skin will ever be thick enough), and at the time, the idea of working in Government seemed simply far-fetched (my preconceptions probably being rather too closely

based on the TV series *The Thick of It...*). However, by the time it came to ping-pong applications, older and perhaps a modicum wiser, and with my Masters well underway, I had begun to realise the vast breadth of opportunities that working in the Civil Service truly had to offer. With a better idea of the doors this route could open, and a greater awareness of the things that made me tick, I sent off my application to the Civil Service Fast Stream. Several months, and several rounds of assessment later, I was told I had been awarded a place.

The Civil Service Fast Stream is accelerated programme that provides graduates from all kinds of backgrounds with the skills, knowledge and experience to take on leadership roles within Government. It gives you the chance to work across a huge variety of Government departments, in a range of locations across the UK, while developing a mix of skills in policy, strategy, corporate and front-line operational delivery roles. For someone like me, still undecided even today as to exactly where I want my career to take me, it has been the ideal means of sampling different kinds of roles, working on diverse projects and giving me a flavour of the vast breadth of activity that goes on in Westminster and beyond.



The programme has taken me from the verdant hills of Shropshire, working in one of HMRC's regional hubs on digital security reform, to the bustling heart of Whitehall (and onto Larry's Downing Street territory). I've worked as a Strategy Advisor at the Department for International Trade, coordinating the production of the "Single Departmental Plan", and in the busy Comms office of the National Police Chiefs' Council. During my time so far on the Fast Stream, I've found the work to be challenging, fast-paced, yet immensely stimulating and hugely rewarding. Now more than ever, in today's fast-moving political environment, the words spoken on the floor of the Commons can have an immediate impact on the work that passes across our desks, and the projects in which we are involved can directly shape the lives of citizens.



This is particularly true of my current posting at the Ministry of Justice, where I have been part of the small team behind the launch of the Children's Funeral Fund. Announced by Theresa May in July this year, the scheme delivers on the Government's manifesto commitment to provide support to bereaved parents, helping towards funeral costs for any child in England who dies before the age of 18, regardless of the family's income. Devising the policy, producing the legislation, driving it through Parliament and then designing the operational framework, it has been a real privilege to see this project evolve from a policy idea through to a working scheme, one that is expected to provide practical support to nearly 7,000 bereaved families each year.

It is this knowledge that the projects I've worked on can have a direct, real-life impact that motivates me, and it is something for which I'm truly grateful to be able to experience in my job. The Fast Stream has also helped me build a wonderful network of colleagues, from a wide range of backgrounds and with a mind-boggling array of specialisms and areas of

expertise, who together make up just a snapshot of the many hundreds of civil servants beavering away to make Government policy a reality.

Now, about to embark on my final posting of the scheme before applying for a permanent position, I'm looking forward to a new set of challenges. In October, I'll be joining the Department for Exiting the European Union, the body responsible for overseeing negotiations and for establishing the future relationship between the UK and the EU. Undoubtedly, there'll be some late nights (though now having a *Bake-Off* contestant for a brother will almost certainly power me through), but to be among those working to ensure as smooth a transition as possible will be a unique opportunity, witnessing changes that will undoubtedly be taught in IR modules of the future.



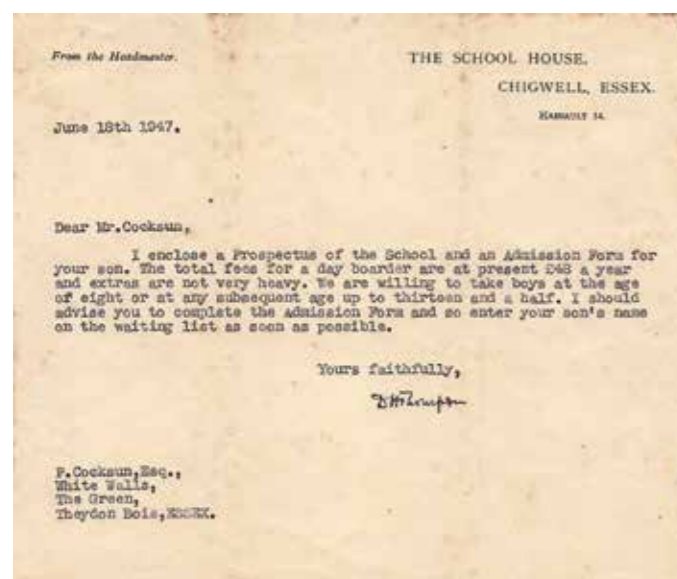
Life isn't all about work, however, or Brexit, as much as the headlines might imply the opposite. I'm keeping my hand in at the music, having sung in a couple of City choirs since moving back to London and still piano-playing in my free time. I'm a keen hiker too and having recently returned from ten days exploring the mountains and forests of Oregon, I'll be setting off in a couple of weeks to trek the Tour de Mont Blanc. One of the most important lessons I learned at Chigwell was the value of making the most of every opportunity that may arise, something I continue to live by both at work and beyond.





# Chigwell School: Recollections from the 50s

by Dr Andrew Cockburn (1953-1963)



## June 1947

...And so it began with a letter of enquiry from my father to the headmaster of Chigwell School concerning entry and Donald Thompson's (Headmaster) reply with a request for the completion of an Admission Form. He noted that "The total fees for a day boarder are at present £48 a year and extras are not very heavy." Dinner was £4 ten shillings a term, which in hindsight, at just over a quarter of the termly fees, made the tuition seem even better value!

## Michaelmas Term 1953 – Junior School

It was a crisp autumn day when I arrived as an 8-year-old day boy at Grange Court,

an imposing late Georgian mansion, for the first day of term as a 'new-bug' and my goodness how we would grow-up over the next three years. The boarders had already arrived and their tuck boxes littered the floor of the common room where the remaining space was filled by a billiard table. Kit bags were deposited in the changing rooms, many having seen service during the Second World War, covered with graffiti and initials of the boys' fathers.

Junior school was in Grange Court. There was a large staircase at one end which led to the dormitories and also to matron's accommodation. Each morning assembly took place where the boys were

divided between each end of the wide corridor. A short service was held each day including hymns, readings and prayers as well as notices being given out. After this, by nine o'clock we went to our respective classrooms, 18 or 20 pupils to each of forms 1, 2 or 3. Lunch was taken in the dining hall in big school, preceded by grace *Benedictus benedictat*. Games took place on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday afternoons, running and athletics came naturally and was my forte gaining much needed points for Penn's.

"He tries hard" was a regular entry in my school reports although languages and science inspired better marks, notwithstanding I longed to be outside as I watched the lucky gardener driving his mower up and down the gracious lawns on his Dennis ride-on mower!

## Michaelmas Term 1957 – Senior School

And so to the 4th Form, where a consistent pattern developed for me with success in the subjects I most enjoyed, namely French, Biology, Chemistry, Physics with Maths plaguing me but not holding me back. My cousin Graham Brett joined at this time as a boarder and it was great to have someone from the family to show the ropes to and vice versa. Football, cross country runs,

the Kennard Cup, Sports Day in the Lent term with the older boys from the Signals Platoon on their '18 Sets' relaying the results of the annual Oxford v. Cambridge boat race, followed after Easter by long summer afternoons of cricket. Who has not been moved by hearing the organ booming out of the chapel walking back across Top Field during practice.

Then there was the CCF with Major Dales, Lt-Col Taylor, Claude Salmon and Colin Horton together with the legendary RSM Keeble. We were inspected annually by the Lord Lieutenant of Essex. The Corps of Drums with its rallying bugle cry and thump of the base drum was as much a part of school life as hearing the chapel organ across top field. A tattoo was beaten at the Chigwell fete in the summer of 1961 held at the British Steam Navigation recreation ground opposite Hainault House, where the *Essex Gazette* recorded that this was led by Drum Major Michel Deakin and that "they cut an impressive figure as they marched and counter-marched on the field."

I had always been interested in radio communications and joined the Signals Platoon under Colin Horton's command. It was based above the stables to the rear of Haylands. We had our own call sign and transmitted and

received cards confirming out contact from around the world, this was heady stuff, at least for me in the early '60s. In due course I was made Sergeant of the Signals Platoon and we used to square bash behind the Kings Head and along Roding Lane. On my final Speech Day in 1963 I received my one (and only) accolade from Chigwell School, the Arthur Meade CCF prize.

No record of my school life can be complete with homage to the magnificent tuck shop behind the acacia tree backing onto Roding Lane. This was developed by a popular maths teacher, Roger Lineker.

First and foremost, Bovril rolls at one penny a time, honeycomb, and other schoolboy delights; school breaks would not have been the same without this incredible facility.

In the winter, after a decent snowfall, lethal slides were made down the side of the tuck shop and in the summer the particular horse chestnut trees bordering Roding Lane produced the finest 'Black Maria' chestnuts for conker games.

Turning to matters academic we were fortunate enough to have an outstanding Biology teacher, John Pollock together with Bill Thurston, who had for many years taught Chemistry, but who openly stated at our first A Level "don't expect me to teach about atomic structure as I was at University with Rutherford before he postulated the current theory." These two kindled further my love of the sciences first introduced by a charming gentleman, Mr Bagguley who worked alongside the head of Physics, Mr Retter. While a new physics and chemistry building had been constructed and opened in 1958, using a subsidy from an Industrial Fund, this did not include Biology, the poor relation which struggled on in Room 9 and the adjacent lab where dissection of all manner of creatures from earthworms, to frogs, rats and Scyllorhinus, the common dogfish, took place. The smell

from the formalin preservative was omnipresent especially in summer, though maybe as a result few biologists ever caught colds. For our A levels we had a Mr Bailey, who taught Botany, Zoology and organic chemistry. His father was the feted engineer who in 1940 had designed the Bailey Bridge, an excellent teacher who inspired us to success.

I count myself lucky to have been able to form a band with three other contemporaries, my cousin Graham 'Bunny' Brett, Rog Rosser and 'whispering' Bob Kilbey, sadly deceased. Occasionally, Mervyn Keeble joined to add 'colour' with his sax. We were known as The Mitres or more cruelly the 'mighters NOT'. Rog and Mervyn were the only ones with formal music training, and it showed, but we hung together, did a number of Saturday night hops in Buckhurst Hill and played in a church hall in Streatham as part of evensong (see photo).

We practised in New Hall and we had some good times playing a range of music including Duane Eddy, the Beatles, The Shadows and requests at the Chigwell fete where I was lucky enough to meet this gorgeous girl, Sue, to whom I have been married since 1968, on graduating from university.

In hindsight during my education the school had remained very traditional in its ways and methods and its buildings, harking back to Archbishop Harsnett and yet the 'swinging sixties' were now upon it. In a sense I count myself lucky to have been at the school for ten years from 1953 to 1963 under one headmaster, during this post-war period.

## 1963 – Leave Chigwell – Quo Vadis

With three good A levels and nowhere to go it was time to *aut viam inveniam aut faciam* (find a way or make a way), so I selected a new, modern University, Brunel in London, offering an Honours degree in Applied Biology and Biochemistry, with the benefit



■ Graham (Bunny) Brett, Andrew Cockburn, Bob Kilbey, Mervyn Keeble and Roger Rosser

of an industrial training period in each of the first three years, followed by a full academic year in the fourth. As the intake was full for the year I went to see the Professor of the Biology Department that I was interested in, an expert in tropical diseases, and he agreed to offer me a place for the following year if I would work as a lab technician in the 'gap' year.

Thus began my training from which I graduated with a first Class Honours degree in Biochemistry. Although I had been offered a PhD at University College in London, I had taken to the pharmaceutical toxicology work I had been involved in at Allen and Hanbury's in Ware during my first industrial placement, so I made a beeline for such work in the food, Pharma and crop protection industries, completed a PhD in 1997 while at Beecham Pharmaceuticals and never looked back. Thirty-seven years later I set up a Consultancy from which

I retired in 2018. I was honoured to be made Visiting Professor to the School of Biology at Newcastle in 2000, where I have lectured and worked with PhD students ever since, as well as at the Universities of Cambridge, Surrey and Brunel.

I have returned to Chigwell with my wife on and off over the last 50 years and today the school seems to be in the best of health under the leadership of the Head Michael Punt. The ongoing ability of the school to respond to today's rapidly changing environment while building on established tradition, is, as Darwin would consider likely to be the key to ensure its survival for the next 400 years.

It is fair to say I have lived the school motto, *aut viam inveniam aut faciam*. Chigwell gave me the tools to do so.

Dr Andrew Cockburn FBiol, FBTS, European Registered Toxicologist. Professor, University of Newcastle.



■ Athletics team 1962-63 (Andrew is second from left in the back row)



■ Andrew is standing holding the swagger stick





## Returning to Chigwell

by Meera Ragha (2001-2008) and School Governor (2017-present)

Looking back on my time at Chigwell, I realise how incredibly fortunate we were – Chigwell provided not just a range of amazing opportunities, it was also an incredibly close-knit community, and was where I formed some of my closest friendships which have continued to flourish to this day.

After leaving Chigwell in 2008, I went to university to read Theology at Cambridge. I was fortunate to be awarded a grant to travel to Varanasi in India, and live in an ashram (a religious monastery) where the monks practised a philosophical school of thought within Hinduism called Advaita Vedanta. By way of a very brief summary, Advaita Vedanta holds that at the most ultimate level, each individual's real self, spirit, or soul (atman) is the same as God (Brahman). The belief that the individual selves are not distinct from the supreme Being or from one another stems from the view that there is a non-dualism between the transcendent Being and the soul (atman), and therefore the soul within each person is the same as each other and identical to the eternal Brahman. This belief in a 'oneness' which unifies all beings with Brahman is in contrast to some types of theistic beliefs in a personal God of religious devotion. After spending time learning about Advaita Vedanta from an academic perspective at university, it was fascinating to experience first-hand the practical realities of life in an ashram. Whilst I had read about how this school of thought holds that there is a deep identity, unity and interrelatedness between all human beings, it was a humbling experience to live amongst monks who practised these beliefs on a day-to-day basis by serving the needs of the poor and marginalised.

After three years of theology, I spent one year doing



management studies at the Judge Business School in Cambridge. I considered careers from a range of sectors whilst at university – I did internships at the British Red Cross, Deutsche Bank and a few law firms. These experiences helped me to evaluate what type of career would be best suited for me personally. I decided to pursue a career in law, as I enjoyed the combination of the academic aspects of law, together with the practical elements of advising clients on their commercial needs.

After university, I completed the law conversion course (the Graduate Diploma in Law) and the Legal Practitioners Course, before starting my training contract with Clifford Chance LLP. I spent six months working in the firm's Singapore office. Corporate law is very international, and I have enjoyed working with clients and colleagues from across the world.

At the end of my training contract, I qualified into the Financial Regulatory department in London. I joined the team at a very interesting time – just after the result of the EU membership

referendum was announced in 2016. It's been an interesting time to start my legal career. I've also been fortunate to have had a breadth of experiences and have completed two client secondments – one at the Bank of New York Mellon, and one more recently at Barclays.

I was looking to broaden my experiences outside of work and, in 2017, I joined as a member of the Chigwell School governor committee. It has been a pleasure and privilege to return to Chigwell as a governor. I've enjoyed the high-level, strategic and creative thinking which is required to provide an independent view on matters concerning Chigwell School. It's been fascinating to think about the school from the perspective of a governor – as a student, I had very little appreciation as to how much goes into the day-to-day running of the school. I've been astounded by the dedication and commitment of all the staff at Chigwell. It's also been great to re-connect with the school and attend a number of events. I'm looking forward to continuing to participate in the development of the school.

## Chaos, Quite Frankly

by Harry Benjamin (2005-2015)

I left Chigwell in the summer of 2015, having spent a good portion of my life there, joining in Upper One. I remember it well; shy and incredibly bad at maths. Four years on and I always knew I wanted to work in the 'creative' industry, but I wouldn't have been able to tell you in exactly what capacity. The path I've led since Chigwell is definitely not the most conventional or straight forward, as I will explain, and unfortunately involves me working with far too many numbers, but I hope it shows that you should jump at any opportunity you're offered, try it and see if it's for you. If not, it's an experience gained, and you can move on to the next thing.

Most of my final years at Chigwell were spent in the Drama Department which I like to think paid off as come the end of my time, I managed to secure my place at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art to do a foundation year in acting. I desperately wanted to do a three-year acting course at a drama school but they are some of the most fiercely competitive schools around so to get on to do a foundation at the most prestigious drama school in the world was not something I was going to turn my nose up. Here's where it starts to get a bit complicated. In the summer between finishing Chigwell and joining Rada, I managed to get myself some work experience for a television production company. I'm a massive motorsport fan and whilst at Chigwell, with their help, I had started my own blog about Formula One. With my acting brain engaged, I realised that a great way to be involved in motorsport would be through broadcasting. So, when a brand-new championship called Formula E, (think F1 but electric) launched, I quickly set about finding out who produced it. I got in contact and after pestering them for a while, they invited me to

Donington Park racetrack for a few days to shadow their team during pre-season testing. It was so much fun, to see actual racing cars in the flesh was a massive buzz. I did all the boring jobs; make tea, get lunch and a lot of a waiting around. However, I made vital connections with people that would later employ me.

Summer ended and off to RADA I went, and it was nothing short of incredible. However, I realised quite quickly that acting was not the only thing I wanted to do and to make it in a drama school, it really needs to be your out-and-out passion. I love acting, but not enough to dedicate three years without doing anything else on the side. This allowed me to really enjoy my time there and I learned so much. I would recommend a foundation acting course to anyone if I'm honest. Hopefully you have some interest in acting but the communication skills you gain and what you learn about yourself and others is something that sets you up for life perfectly. Whether that's to go on to university afterwards, full time employment or something else. It's also just quite a lot of fun. For me though, once RADA ended, I focused on broadcasting. I was accepted onto an internship with a production company which allowed me to work across BBC Radio 5 Live's Formula One coverage and other sporting events as well as commercial radio. Again, very valuable and they paid me too! Next stop, the University of East Anglia where I had enrolled in a degree in American Studies. That was to be the first of many mistakes I've made, but again, I wouldn't go back and change it.

Chigwell very graciously helped me with the personal statement and the UCAS system which I had missed first time round and come September I was in Norwich ready for a four-year American



Studies degree. I thought it would be great to help me in a journalist capacity and also a year in America sounded great. Very quickly I realised it was not for me, I wasn't enjoying it or finding it interesting and ended up dropping out a couple of months later. A very difficult decision to make, I suddenly had a whole year to fill, as I had arranged to re-enrol at UEA the following year but to do a drama degree.

Luckily, a week after dropping out, the production company I had done an internship with offered me a job for as long as I wanted it. They trained me up in how to produce, edit, and through them I was able to work across BBC 5 Live's F1 output from the office as well as travelling to the racetrack, working on numerous other productions on top of this. They also ran a radio station called The Wireless. It was in association with Age UK and I presented the 'Retro Chart Show' every Sunday. Perfect. However, after six months I wanted to try something else before going back to university.

Since my first bit of work experience at Donington Park, I had stayed in touch with the







Formula E presenter. I had continued to pester her with what I was up to and then she asked if I would work with her, as a researcher and social media manager. This led to travelling round the European races with her and CNN, the broadcasters, to Monaco, Paris, Berlin and London. Whilst there, I ended up working as an assistant producer for CNN, reporting, carrying out interviews with drivers and shaping the content we were putting out on air. For a 20-year-old this was all pretty cool. I had some amazing adventures but university round two was calling and I knew there was no way I could make this Formula E job full time, plus, I wanted to get a degree, so off I went, fingers firmly crossed.

The first two years of university were tough. Not only going from working, what was pretty much a dream job, to being back in education, to also dealing with family health issues and other work opportunities I was starting to get because of my experience. Balancing all that is hard. However, during university I started doing student radio which led to entering a student radio competition. I made a demo of all my best links and submitted it into a very scary X-Factor style competition. My demo was called out and played in front of about 200 people and was being judged

by the head of BBC Radio 1, the head of Absolute Radio, a talent agent and two well established DJs. However, it went down quite well and I was offered work experience at Absolute Radio off the back of it. Two weeks there learning the ropes of how a massive commercial radio station worked, making tea and coffee and doing lots of research tasks led to me freelancing as a producer for them at the weekends, before being called up last minute to cover the Dave Berry Breakfast Show as an Assistant Producer. I did not know what I was getting myself in to, but they gave me a mornings' training and off I went, for two weeks. I think I just about pulled it off, we only went off air once, and it wasn't my fault! The radio bug was starting to bite, and I was starting to get opportunities with other big-name stations. More demo-making occurred, lots of rejection and eventually I landed a regular radio gig on Hits Radio, a sister station to Absolute Radio, Kiss, Magic and more. The network reaches about six million people so when I did my first live show, I have never been more nervous in my life. Now, six months on from my first show, I've presented weekend breakfast, mid mornings, evenings, the night shift, afternoons and more on a national radio station. I still keep my toe in motorsports,



doing a podcast interviewing some of the biggest names from motorsport; I'm off to Monaco shortly to chat to David Coulthard and Nico Rosberg which will be very hard work I'm sure. The acting is still very much around as well. I've just finished two big shows, *The 39 Steps* in Norwich, playing Richard Hannay, performing to sold-out audiences each night, followed by another show at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. Chaos, quite frankly. All that and I have one more year at UEA to see off before I can go full on attack, but I love university as well so as long as I can somehow keep managing it all, I'll be happy.

I realise this is probably quite a long article so well done for getting this far. I'll finish with a few things I've learnt since leaving Chigwell. Follow your passions. Don't be afraid to make mistakes, in fact I actively encourage it. Try new things and go out of your comfort zone. The things you'll do and the people you'll meet by doing this will give you such a unique outlook on life, because as cliché as it is, life is short, so enjoy whatever amount of time you have here.



# Uncorked: A Career in London's Wine Trade

by Pippa Mistry-Norman (2000-2011)



Writing this piece on my career to-date and life post-Chigwell brings home just how life does not occur in straight lines. As a pupil at Chigwell from 2000-2011, I was constant in my dream to teach Classics alongside Mr Lord and follow in the footsteps of David Horton. Now, eight years later, I manage two successful wine shops in Belgravia having worked with Jeroboams Wine Merchants for the past 2½ years across other London boroughs in sales and events.

The true start of my career started in the summer after I graduated from the University of Exeter with a BA in Classics and Theology when I was fortunate enough to spend a month in the States. In a small tasting room in San Francisco where the great winemakers of Napa Valley and the Sonoma Coast proffer their creations to the public, the sommelier and I started discussing the various characteristics of the grapes and the winemaking techniques. The gentleman said to me as I was halfway out the door (thankfully I did manage to get there in a straight line!), "You've got quite the palate. When you go home, do some courses and wine could be your career!"

I have always done what I am told (storytelling license taken over slightly here) so when I got back I went to the WSET school in Bermondsey where I got my first qualifications in wines & spirits. These

vaulted me into my first job at the newly opened 67 Pall Mall as a Junior Sommelier where I worked in the events team putting on wine dinners and tastings for the members who all have a love of wine in common. A typical evening here had me tasting such delights as 1st Growth Bordeaux and the very highest echelons of Burgundian domaines. A stunning place to learn and develop my palate with the winners of the Best Sommelier in the UK; Greece; South Africa and Spain (my boss was the holder of the first two at the same time!).

Jeroboams ('London's Local Wine Merchant') has been around since 1984 and bonded with Laytons ('By restaurateurs for restaurants') who sell to bars and restaurants who started out in 1934 so a company with a bit of history and experience in getting wine to those who enjoy drinking it. Operating with nine shops in London's loveliest locales, Jeroboams is a small company with big stretch over our capital city and wines that are something to enjoy with friends on a Friday night alongside a portfolio of wines that are for investment and haven't even been bottled yet. I now spend my time with them in Belgravia undertaking sales and events as a UK sparkling wine, Champagne and sake specialist.

Hosting wine-tastings, dealing with private clients and selling

some of the most desirable and expensive wines on the market I thought I would have while at school, but it involves enough teaching – whether wines to customers or training my multilingual (a Latin education so helpful here) teams – to satisfy the part of me that loves to instill knowledge in others. Working in wine means I get to enjoy travelling to vineyards with inside contacts and tasting the fine and rare (staying at the world-famous Ornellaia estate in Tuscany recently was a particular highlight of my career) and creating unique memories.

When people find out you work in the wine industry nowadays, there are two questions that always follow: 'What is your favourite wine?' and 'How is Brexit going to affect what wines are available in the UK?'. The first is an impossible one and the answer changes month-to-month. I love drinking and selling wine that is weird but wonderful and shows true innovation and courage on the part of the winemaker – and these can be £10 or £1000 a bottle and from anywhere in the world. The second is a difficult one and will be the topic of heated negotiations between France, Italy (predominantly) and the

UK. What I will say about it is that it seems unavoidable that prices will increase for continental wines and spirits both in supermarkets and wine merchants. Consequently, there will be a heightened desire to engage with the burgeoning UK wine production both in sparkling and still wines and all of the boutique distilleries that are cropping up throughout the country. If you're on the hunt for a good place to start, Gusbourne and Nyetimber are two award-winning names to look out for as alternatives to Champagne.

While I am based in London mostly, I take great pleasure in organising bespoke events and selling to customers in the rest of the UK. I have hosted a wine-tasting for the Bede Griffiths Charitable Trust, of which I am a trustee, at Chigwell School and will be heading out to Copped Hall and the New Forest in the near future.

The wine industry is a place of joy – providing and enjoying the fruits of the vine often with good food and great company. It wasn't the path I envisaged for myself when I was younger but it's been a great ride and it's a journey that I wouldn't trade for anything (except maybe a lifetime supply of Cristal).





# Reflections in a Glass

by Michael Deakin (1946-1954)



■ Michael, now retired as Chairman of the Middlesex Regiment, accompanied by his daughter, at a Regimental Service in St Paul's Cathedral

I hope, with my neighbours at table, and now I was left, staring into what remained of my last glass of wine. In my mind, I went back, room by room, over the new facilities of which the School can now be justly proud, and through which we'd been conducted before dinner by Mr and Mrs Punt, the Headmaster and his wife. The first thing that struck me was how much school education had changed. I had not appreciated this fact throughout a long military career during which two sons had been at Chigwell. In any case, who ever conducts an in-depth interrogation of the past term's work when two boarders with luggage appear on the doorstep in Germany, ready to start their school holiday? Clearly, however, life at Chigwell is no longer the long annual grind through the contents of the Book Loft above Room 2, leading to the inevitable trial of school and finally public examinations. From the pictures, posters and diagrams on the walls of the classrooms, and the impressive equipment in those rooms devoted to specific practical activities, education has changed, expanded in all dimensions.

It was at the Old Chigwellians Black Tie Dinner on the 30th March 2019. My wife and I had been invited to join the Headmaster's table. This was, I think, the result of my imagining that it was unlikely that I would find any of my contemporaries of the 1946 intake at the dinner. So it proved, scanning the list of those attending. The closest were of the 1948 vintage, one of whom told me that from that list he had concluded that I must be the 'Father of the House' for the evening. Gazing around a room of many other grey-haired elderly diners, I suddenly felt even older.

We'd been served an excellent dinner, and heard two fascinating reports from the Headmaster and the President of The Old Chigwellian Association. I had conversed intelligently,

and Boy Scout Troops were run by adults. Piano and other instrument teachers were adult, if not ancient. Nothing, however, prepared the 'new bug' for the impact of members of the Sixth Form at Chigwell. They were grown up. They were 'men'. They shaved, and they wore sports jackets, not the regulation flannel suits or blue blazers. Were you to find yourself walking down from New Hall behind two or more in conversation the chances were you would understand very little, especially if the exchange included Bernard Williams, later to become the much-respected philosopher. It seemed as if they had already passed beyond the status of school boy, and were now more akin to trainee proconsuls. Embedded in their number were the praefects and pro-praefects of the School. Exchanges with this elite were naturally short, one-sided, and confined to advice on 'hands in pockets', 'jackets undone', and 'not walking on the edge of the grass instead of 'the path'. All in unmistakable terms.

On that first day, initial reception and roll-call, under the scrutiny of a bust of Archbishop Harsnett, whose eyes roamed across the faces of the new arrivals, was held in the combined Big School 1 and 2.

The teaching staff under Dr R.L. James, the headmaster, was studied with memorable characters. Mr Atkinson was the kindly senior maths master, and football coach, until the arrival of Flt Lt John Dutchman, the hero of Cambridge University soccer, Corinthian Casuals, and the Cup-winning Pegasus. (He had also played for Leeds United, but that was only mentioned in hushed tones within earshot of West Ham and Tottenham supporters. Oh, and he also taught English.) When the West Indian Test cricketer, John Cameron, arrived to teach

English and French, and to coach the first eleven, the expectation of instant improvement to the season's results was high. However, that was not the Cameron style. The benefit came from quiet individual comment and subtle suggestion for improvement to personal skill.

It was scurrilously reported that Miss Crabtree, the Art Mistress, had already been on the staff for at least 50 years. She was certainly of an era when small boys were better behaved and more compliant. Her floral hats on Speech Day were in the best Miss Marple tradition, and her disapproval of a first and only exhibition boxing match staged on top field on her last Speech Day was sad but understandable.

As my memories from September 1946 onwards faded, along with the last of my wine, two scenes managed a final flickering appearance. The first starred Mr Lister, the Carpentry Master, who used to cycle from Abridge to teach Woodwork to the junior forms. The world must be studded with identical, very elegant, table lamps in solid oak made by pupils. Forever in use; never discarded. The Dickensian Mr Lister headed a boys' table at lunchtime. I never saw him at the raised Top Table reserved for staff. He would make jolly conversation and clearly enjoy his duty and his lunch. He knew, however, that all eyes were on him if the second course was suet pudding (masquerading as treacle sponge) and watered down Golden Syrup. Shunning the syrup, he would send a willing volunteer to retrieve a jug of gravy from the first course, he would dowse his pudding with it, add salt and pepper, and enjoy it while the silent table looked on. He made it look so appetising, you see.

The last memory had almost faded. A voice behind me as I entered the Old Gym changing room and classroom, "Oy, you! Take your hands out of your pockets!" It was a pro-praefect exercising his voice and disciplinary powers over me. Eighteen years later I landed my helicopter



■ Battery Command Post on Sebatik Island with the Battery Commander, Richard Wigglesworth OC



■ One of his gun positions with my Alouette Helicopter in the background

on Sebatik Island in North Borneo, during the Indonesian confrontation. I was to direct the gunfire of a Malaysian Artillery Battery. I found the tented Command Post close to the landing site, the Battery Commander, who was to brief me, came out of the shade. We greeted each other as Old Chigwellians do, and got down to the briefing. Then, strapping ourselves into the French Alouette III helicopter, we took off. Within 30 minutes we were back at the Command Post, another incursion having been disrupted, this time by

two Old Chigwellians in a helicopter. Having checked available local reports to confirm the success of our mission, I saluted smartly (he was after all a Major, and I a mere Captain at the time) and turned to fly back to Tawau, my base. I managed just a few yards when a voice overtook me. "Oy, you! Take your hands out of your pockets!" Like leopards, pro-praefects never change their spots.

Thank you, Headmaster and Mrs Punt, for a most memorable Old Chigwellian dinner.





# From Chigwell to Addenbrooke's – Trust a Dietitian

by Zoe Garnish (2003-2014)



Growing up, I had a strong interest in healthcare. I studied Biology, Chemistry and English Literature during the Sixth Form at Chigwell. I stumbled upon the idea of becoming a Dietitian and spent three years studying BSc (Hons) Dietetics at the University of Hertfordshire. It focused on biochemistry (including food and nutrient digestion/metabolism), physiology, disease and nutrition. My degree also included several work-based placements within the NHS setting: community hospitals, GP surgeries and acute hospitals. With the rise of Instagram influencers, celebrity promoted appetite suppressant lollipops and diet teas, alongside readily available online nutrition qualifications, it often comes as a surprise that this degree

is heavily science-based and typically takes three or four years.

After spending 11 years at Chigwell, it was a bit of a shock to finally leave the Chigwell bubble! I undertook my first-year clinical placements in the community; second and third-year placements were in acute settings. Putting theoretical knowledge into practical scenarios was exciting and the experience gained was invaluable. At the end of my final placement, I had my own patient caseload. I really enjoyed the hospital environment and knew I wanted a job in a teaching hospital – I enjoy seeing complex patients, working as part of the multi-disciplinary team (MDT) and keeping up to date with current research.

Since graduating in 2017, I have been working at Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (CUH – Addenbrooke's Hospital), as a Registered Dietitian. I am one of ~80 Dietitians at the hospital. The reputation, care and opportunities which the Trust provides are amazing. I even managed to see the Queen when she opened the new Papworth Hospital next to CUH!

I started my career here as a Band 5 Dietitian (graduate level) which was varied and covered medical short-stay, trauma, orthopaedic, care-of-the-elderly and infectious disease wards. This involved seeing all types of patients from geriatrics to road traffic collision patients. I also covered twice-weekly outpatient clinics for patients who had received kidney transplants. The pace of work here is very busy, but I like to think that my organisational skills which I developed at Chigwell (when I juggled homework, sport and music) have been beneficial.

Six months into my working career, I was honoured to win a 'You Made a Difference Award'. This is a scheme which CUH uses to help recognise staff who have made a profound impact by going above and beyond for patients, colleagues or visitors. I was nominated for my work with a patient with a complex medical and social background who became very depressed having been on the ward for a long while. The patient stopped eating and lost a substantial amount of weight during the admission. To manage the patient's nutritional provision I suggested various ways of optimising nutritional intake, including tube feeding and oral nutrition support. I also advised different medications to help manage their appetite and mood. I arranged for an external interpreter to be appointed due to language barriers and for special weekly food deliveries from a supermarket to ensure culturally appropriate food was always available. With the help of my work and the MDT, the patient started to regain weight and interacting again. Receiving my award from the Chairman and CEO of Addenbrooke's was amazing and something I will never forget. The cake was great too...

Since then, I have progressed to a Band 6 role as a Specialist Renal Dietitian at Addenbrooke's which I am thoroughly enjoying.

In this new role, I cover one of our local Haemodialysis units, alongside Home Haemodialysis patients. I distinctively remember learning about the process of dialysis and transplantation in GCSE Biology with Mr Wilson. If you would have told me I was going to be caring for these patients, I would never have believed you! This patient group can be complex

to manage due to multiple biochemical abnormalities, but getting to know these patients over several months is amazing and something I enjoy most about my job.

A large part of my current role also involves caring for patients who have received kidney and simultaneous pancreas-kidney (SPK) transplants. These patients often have complicated nutritional needs post-surgery, requiring tube-feeding (either directly into the jejunum or the blood stream with specialised liquid nutrition) and therapeutic diet long-term post-transplant is also really important. Recently, I even had the opportunity to observe a live kidney transplant which really put into perspective how amazing the human body is and how much we often take it for granted.

I have also contributed to a National service evaluation looking at SPK transplantation across the different transplant centres in the UK. I helped present our abstract poster at the National UK Kidney Week in Brighton this summer. Another

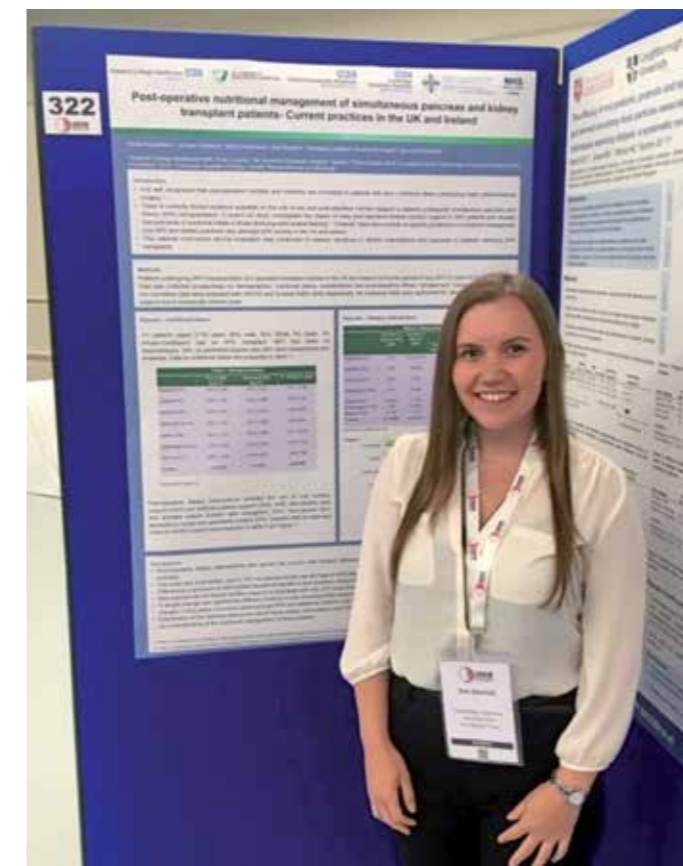
abstract which I contributed to has been accepted for the 19th Congress of European Society for Organ Transplantation in Copenhagen. I am hoping I will be able to present this there, later this year.

Another part of my role which I enjoy is supervising and teaching Student Dietitians during their degree placements. I also present to groups of students (e.g. GCSE, sixth form) at NHS career days, talking about what a Dietitian is and why it might be of interest – and to dispel common myths...

Writing this entry has prompted me to reflect on my time over the last few years; it has also reminded me of the many fond memories I have of Chigwell and I am truly grateful for my time at school. The people I met (students and staff), opportunities and experiences gained have led me to where I am today. I pride myself on never giving up on patients and I am sure that this has been ingrained into me from our Chigwell School motto, 'aut viam inveniam aut faciam'.



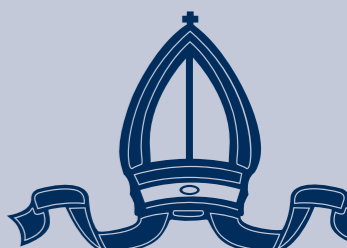
■ Presentation by the Chairman and CEO of CUH



■ Presenting our Service Evaluation at the National UK Kidney Week 2019

### Did you know?...

- **Registered Dietitians:**
  - are the only nutrition professionals to be regulated by law. To become a Dietitian you must complete a 3 or 4-year degree in BSc (Hons) Dietetics or Post graduate Diploma, which also involves placement work (usually) within the NHS setting
  - are qualified health professionals that assess, diagnose and treat diet and nutrition problems at an individual and wider public health level
- There are 8,000 Registered Dietitians in the UK
- Only eight centres in the UK perform simultaneous kidney and pancreas transplants – Addenbrooke's is one of them!





# The Great British Bake Off

by Henry Bird (2010-2017)



You know the feeling when you have just been told something amazing and potentially life-changing and would love to tell everyone? Well, I had to keep this feeling under wraps for a few months earlier this year when I found out that I had been accepted for a place on *The Great British Bake Off*. All the participants had been told in no uncertain terms that we were not to impart any information about being on the show to anyone, except possibly for one's very nearest and dearest. So I began the task of carefully revealing to a few members of my family, plus a handful of close Chigwell and university friends, that I was to be part of something that I had dreamed about for such a long time.

My love of baking began during my time at Chigwell, when, as a 12 year-old I had become fascinated by the fact that *Bake Off* had begun filming very close to where I live. I would often linger outside the tent on the way home from school to catch a glimpse of busy people in aprons,

baking in what appeared to be an enormous, idyllic, beautifully equipped kitchen. I must have hung around so much that I was eventually noticed and, rather than have me arrested for loitering, they invited me into the tent to briefly watch the filming. I then subsequently met Paul Hollywood and his co-judge at that time, Mary Berry. From that moment, I became inspired to bake and my incredibly busy life at Chigwell became punctuated by episodes of intense baking at home, often testing the sanity and patience of my family to its limits. I frequently wandered around school with plates of cakes, using the discerning palates of a number of Chigwell staff members to try out my increasingly elaborate recipes. My car journeys to school were often fraught with tension and danger, and driven with great skill to deliver myself, and on occasion a three-tier chocolate ganache cake, to school intact!

I recall vividly during my outgoing Head of School address to the school, in a wonderfully hot marquee, referring to the fact that this was almost as good as fulfilling my dream of being on *The Great British Bake Off* – slowly roasting in a beautiful tent surrounded by lovely people. So, when I actually stepped into the real *Bake Off* tent, one fine early summer morning this year, I recalled that blissful Speech Day and could hardly believe that I was actually going to be part of this baking heaven.

The first few weeks involved many discussions about logistics, interviews and filming of my family, a few Chigwell friends and I, so as to provide material for the introductory episodes. The production company wanted to film me basically doing anything that would help viewers get an impression of me as a person – a somewhat daunting and risky exercise!

So, without really thinking I found myself singing, playing the organ, eating cake and drinking wine with friends in front of a camera crew. It was highly appropriate that this involved a morning of filming at St Mary's – a church filled with such happy memories from school – with Michael Bradley accompanying me singing a selection of pieces from my Chigwell Chapel Choir days! All very bizarre, but great fun nevertheless!

My life quickly became ruled by train journeys, to and from Durham where I am studying English – journeys spent planning recipes and sending in plans to the production company (and completing outstanding degree work). There were then chaotic periods at home when I emptied the supermarket shelves of baking ingredients, procured weird and wonderful baking equipment, practised my bakes for the coming weeks, hiding at times from my grandma who did not know I was filming, off-loading spare bakes on unsuspecting neighbours, and then travelling to the filming location. *Bake Off* took hold of my life in a weird but wonderful way and every week I got through another episode, the pace of life went up a notch! This is the case for everyone who has had the privilege of taking part in *Bake Off*. But



who could complain about baking, week after week, in the grounds of a gorgeous country house, surrounded by picturesque countryside, in the middle of an increasingly blazing British summer? I remember the filming of the final episode and garden party vividly, surrounded by my family, university mates and close friends from school, Faith Inch and Tamra Paul, and of course my *Bake Off* colleagues. Watching as the winner was crowned, I looked around and realised what an absolute joy the entire experience had been.

Since leaving the tent, people have asked me what my most memorable moments were. In all honesty, every minute of the filming was wonderful. Being in a confined space with Noel Fielding and Sandi Toksvig, with the two judges Paul Hollywood and Prue Leith, with a friendly and supportive production team and 13 lovely fellow bakers was truly the stuff of dreams. Looking back on it, the whole atmosphere was always a playful and light-hearted one. Everyone in that tent, the crew, the runners, the story producers, judges, presenters, everybody, just got along so well. Granted, that may have been helped by the fact that everyone was

never more than about three feet from a baked good at any one time.

The likelihood of enclosing 13 strangers in a tent together, giving them complex things to bake in front of a camera and to a tight deadline and on top of that having them get along is pretty slim. But many of these people are now dear friends and will be so for the rest of my life. There have been little moments shown on TV – me wearing the spider brooch for Helena when she left the tent, and the four semi-finalists all

donning ties after I departed – that hopefully go some way to show how much we cherished each other's company while in the tent, and continue to do so. As I said in my episode of *An Extra Slice*, it was wonderful that people could, for an hour or so a week, tune into something joyous and light-hearted – particularly in these times of uncertainty and negative news dominating our screens on a daily basis.

Indeed, the *Bake Off* world of baking seems a million miles away from all that – a world where the most stressful thing happening at any given time is whether or not a mousse is going to set, or a brioche dough is going to turn the right shade of golden, I think we can all agree is potentially a rather lovely one. I remember tuning in to *The BBC News Quiz* a few years ago and listening to writer and comedian Susan Calman explaining why she loved *Bake Off*, saying that the fact that "people can be on the edge of their seats to see if a stranger's scone rises" was "a reminder that humanity is at its core a beautiful and gentle thing". It may sound a little sentimental, but those words really stuck with me, and I remember thinking about them when I was inside the tent, and knowing it was going to be an experience that I would look back on with nothing but fondness.

I would like to thank so many people for supporting me through this baking adventure. Firstly, the Chigwell Staff who acted, unknowingly, as my guinea-pigs – and survived to tell the tale. Secondly, my dear school and university friends who, over the past few years, have consumed far more sugar and carbohydrate than is recommended for a lifetime, in the quest for my perfect bake. I would obviously not have been able to do any of this without the unfailing support of my family, particularly the meticulous advice of my sister who is, in her own right, a discerning cook, and the counselling and logistical skills of my parents. Finally, I would like to thank all the wonderful Chigwell pupils, ex-pupils, families and members of staff who tuned in week after week, cheering me on in a true Chigwell family spirit and willing my bakes to emerge victorious from the oven! I did my best and to my utter surprise, won a Star Baker, received a Hollywood handshake for some unpronounceable Swedish buns (Kardamumabullar) and managed to get to the quarter final! It was indeed, all a complete pleasure! What will come of it, I do not yet know, but I do know that I am immensely grateful and blessed to have had the opportunity of a lifetime.





# Honouring Our First World War OCs

A group of Year 9 pupils visited the First World War battlefields in Belgium and France. The two-day history trip provided the opportunity to compare the mud and devastation of the Ypres Salient with the wide-open, predominantly rural, Somme battlefields of 1916. It was a poignant but most valuable trip; one which will live long in the memories of both pupils and staff. Visiting the trenches, battlefields and memorials provided a deeper understanding of the sacrifices on both sides of WWI. Whilst on the Salient the group visited the Commonwealth War Graves cemetery in Lijssehoek, which was profoundly different to the German cemetery they visited later in the day at Langemarck. In between these two visits the pupils entered the trench

system at Bayernwald in order to see how the Germans held the advantage of the high ground around Ypres. The group ended the first day at the impressive Menin Gate in the town centre, which is dedicated to the British and Commonwealth soldiers who were killed and whose graves are unknown.

The next day the group were on the Somme and visited some captivating places including Ulster Tower and the trenches that were left in Thiepval Wood. They visited the Delville Wood cemetery where Geoffrey Pain, an Old Chigwellian, is laid to rest. He was only sixteen when he was killed in action on the Somme. They listened to a poem written by John Thurlow, another OC victim

of the First World War, as they observed a minute's silence by his graveside. Later the pupils explored The Sunken Lane where they learnt about the Hawthorn Ridge mine and saw first-hand the impact of the catastrophic military decisions on 1st July 2016 and the resulting abundant cemeteries. At the end of the day they visited the colossal Thiepval Memorial to the Missing and amongst over 72,000 British soldiers whose bodies were never found and have no known grave, two OCs were remembered. Poems, tributes and a wreath of poppies were left to commemorate both Henry Allpass and Albert Harris.

The trip had a big impact on the pupils and one commented that it had helped him to

understand the experiences of not just the British soldiers but those from Germany too. He went on to say that he would not forget the horrible conditions in the trenches that the soldiers had to face.

Mr Ian Goddard, Head of History, remarked that the pupils were a credit to both themselves and the School as they behaved impeccably and listened attentively (in trying conditions) as their guides brought a real depth of knowledge to their studies of the First World War. His highlights were going in to the trenches at Ulster Tower and listening to Mr Gower's reciting of a poem written for Henry Allpass OC by a friend on hearing that he had fallen during the Battle of the Somme.



We are launching a new network on LinkedIn with the aim of linking our sixth form students to professionals in their areas of career interest, and we invite you to join!

With the Network we hope:

- To create a careers-supportive network between current students and OCs, parents and other professionals with links to the School.
- To facilitate work experience and job shadowing opportunities.
- Current students can approach Network members for advice relating to specific professional and industry areas
- To strengthen the Schools contacts and allow for

a broader spectrum of volunteers to events such as the Careers Convention, mock med interviews, Meet the Future talks, Williams Project and other events.

It will be a closed Network on LinkedIn and potential members will be asked to state their link to Chigwell and their area of business before their request is approved.

Please join The Chigwell Careers Network by setting up your own profile on LinkedIn; [www.linkedin.com](http://www.linkedin.com), searching for The Chigwell Careers Network under Groups and request to join the group.

Contact Miss Darkin for more details - [rdarkin@chigwell-school.org](mailto:rdarkin@chigwell-school.org)



■ Delville Wood cemetery



■ Ulster Tower and trench system in Thiepval Wood



■ Thiepval Memorial to the Missing: Albert Harris OC and Henry Allpass OC



■ Memorial to Geoffrey Pain OC





# Births, Weddings & Engagements

## BIRTHS

■ **David Doe (1987-1998)** and his wife Anna are glad to announce the birth of their second child Austin on 19th July 2018. He was born at the OLVG West Hospital in Amsterdam.

■ **Sam Pinching (2002-2007)** and his wife Laura are delighted to announce the arrival of their second child Beau on 19th November 2018. He was born at the Princess Alexandra Hospital in Harlow.

■ **Jing (Jessica) Zhang (2008-2010)** and Yue (Sky) Sun welcomed the birth of their daughter, Kexin (Kathy) Sun, on 16th December 2018.

■ **Tom Savage (1995-2002)** and his wife, Kerry, are happy to announce the birth of their first child, Max, on 23rd January 2019. He was born at the Princess Alexandra Hospital in Harlow.

■ **Hamel Patel (1993-2000)** and his wife Jo are glad to announce the birth of their second child, Kit Martin Patel, on 19th March 2019. He was born at The Whittington Hospital in London.

■ **James Lee (1986-1994)** and his wife Elena are pleased to announce the birth of their first child, Edward Alexander, on 18th May 2019. Edward was born at Broomfield Hospital.

## ENGAGEMENTS

■ **Matthew O'Connor (1998-2009)** and Grace Smith are delighted to announce their engagement which took place in Florence on 5th May 2019. They are due to be married in October 2020 in Kenya.

## WEDDINGS

■ **Nadim Kala (1995-2006)** and Danielle Djemal were married on 24th November 2018 at Gosfield Hall and had their reception there too. They had a magnificent day shared with many OCs and Will Taylor and Emma Whitcomb were best man and best woman.

■ **Graeme Barnes (1995-2002)** and Sean Marcs were married on 1st December 2018 at The Gherkin, London. They followed the ceremony with a reception and party under the glass and the stars on level 40 of this iconic building in London. They had a wonderful day and the following OCs were in attendance: Ben Molyneux (Best Man), Tom Savage, Emma Oxley, Colette de Boer, Alex Ford, Willem Botha, Nick McHardy and Mark McKenna.

■ **Maddy Cameron (2007-2009)** and Daniel Fogg (ex-Team GB Olympic Swimmer) were married on 13th April 2019 at Milling Barn in Buntingford. Many OCs attended the celebrations including Murray Cameron (father of the bride), Victoria Edwards (wedding photographer), Nicola Lambrianos, Keith Cameron, Chris Williams, Nigel Davis and Ross Berndes.



■ Austin



■ Kexin



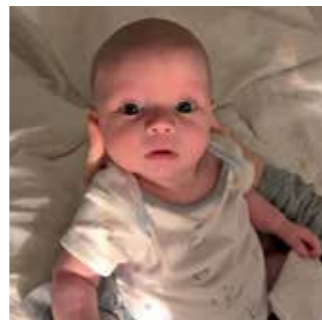
■ Kit



■ Grace & Matthew



■ Graeme & Sean



■ Beau



■ Max



■ Edward



■ Nadim & Danielle



■ Maddy & Daniel



■ Yunlin & Xiongfeng



■ Niamh & Neil



■ Rachel & Dominic



■ Patrice & Sophie



■ Emma & Daniel

■ **Yunlin (Erin) Cheng (2008-2010)** and Xiongfeng Lou were married on 23rd April 2019. Their Chinese weddings were held in Hangzhou and Huangshan, China, in October 2019. They had a lovely celebration and the following OCs were in attendance: Jing Zhang, Yue Sun and Xiaolu Liu.

■ **Beth Jones (2000-2007)** and Stephen Henry were married on 25th May 2019 at St Mary's Church in Chigwell. They followed the ceremony with a reception held at School in the Dining Hall and Conservatory. They had a unforgettable day and the following OCs were in attendance; Hannah Taylor, Lucy Snooks, Desmond Schofield, Mark Hutchinson, Annabel Petrou, Emma Jones, Trish Ladipo, Sinead Simmonds and Prajesh Solanki.

■ **Neil Arora (1993-2000)** and Niamh Delahunty were married on 25th May 2019 in Frome, Somerset. They followed the ceremony with a reception held at Orchardleigh House. The whole occasion was superb and the following OCs were in attendance: Craig Buckingham, Hamel Patel, Anil Kurukulasooriya, Chris Palmer, Marc Wallace, Neil Stebbings, Marc Franklin, Alex McHardy, Kayode Akinola and Alan Howden (wedding photographer).

■ **Michael Philpot (1995-2006)** and Sarah Curry were married in Cancun, Mexico on 31st May 2019. OCs who attended were Andrew Philpot, William Taylor, Samir Ahmed, Nadim Kala and Jack Harris.

■ **Rachel Wetherfield (2003-2005)** and Dominic Meredith were married on 31st May 2019 at Inchcolm Abbey, Inchcolm in the Firth of Forth, followed by a reception at Orocco Pier Hotel, South Queensferry. They were delighted to be married by Revd Sarah Gower, who had been Rachel's form tutor during her days at Chigwell. OCs Sarah Wetherfield and Ahila Sivarasan were also in attendance.

■ **Ben Cordell (2004-2011)** and Zosia Hill were married on 10th August 2019 at the Chigwell School Chapel. They followed the ceremony with a reception held at the Chigwell Riding Trust and the following OCs were in attendance: Matthew Lovett, Alice Beagley, Stuart Innes, Rachel Maton, Jessica Maton and Hannah Welham.

■ **Sophie Strong (2007-2009)** and Patrice Grech were married on 25th August 2019 at De Vere Wotton House, Dorking. Many OCs attended including Victoria Cadish (wedding photographer). Former Penn fellow, Amy Arundale, flew back from the US for the occasion too.

■ **Emma Oxley (2000-2002)** married Daniel Gibney on 31st August 2019 at St Thomas' Church, Navestock, Essex and afterwards they celebrated at Marleys, Navestock Heath. Many OCs from many generations attended: Graeme Barnes, Tom Savage, Willem Botha, Mark McKenna, Nick McHardy, Colette de Boer, Alex Ford, Ben Molyneux, Mark Hutchings, Ross Berndes, Stuart Redcliffe and Paul Carter. Of course, the Oxley Family were there too; Buster Oxley (father of the bride), Sam Oxley, Sophie Pryor, Jamie Smith, Philip Oxley, David Oxley and Peter Barber.

■ **Jonathan (Jon) Hill (1978-1988)** and Sally Donohoe were married on 21st September 2019 at the Kings Oak Hotel in High Beach. Several OCs were present to share the good day including Adam Thorpe (best man), John Hill (father), John Nicholls (cousin), Richard Hill (brother), John Carter and Lee Pollington.



■ Stephen & Beth



■ Sarah & Michael



■ Zosia & Ben



■ Jonathan & Sally



# University News

## Year Group 2009

■ **Matthew Gibbs (1998-2009)** has completed his Postgraduate Diploma with Merit. He commented that this means that ten years after leaving Chigwell, with three university qualifications, he is finally a fully qualified Architect.

## Year Group 2011

■ **Nicholas Dixon (2004-2011)** was awarded the degree of PhD in History by the University of Cambridge on 19th July 2019 for his thesis entitled 'The Activity and Influence of the Established Church in England, c. 1800-1837'. In August and September 2019, he was a visiting fellow at the Lewis Walpole Library of Yale University.

## Year Group 2013

■ **Jack Kempe (2006-2013)** graduated from the University of Bath with a First Class Masters degree in Chemical Engineering. He is heading to Japan before embarking on a graduate role.

## Year Group 2016

■ **Bianca Andrei (2014-2016)** gained a Double First Class BA after studying Natural Sciences (Physics) at Trinity College, Cambridge. She has now started work in JP Morgan in London as an analyst in the FX Option Trading desk.

■ **Odette Clark (2005-2016)** was awarded a First Class BA (Hons) in Acting from the University of Bath Spa.

■ **Stacey Cockram (2014-2016)** graduated with a 2:1 BA in Education and English from the University of Durham and is currently pursuing a career in communications and working in Tech PR at Aspectus Group in London.

■ **Lydia Colman (2005-2016)** achieved a 2:1 BA (Hons) in Drama from the University of Lincoln and is currently on a PGCE Primary course at UCL.

■ **Rhea Gupta (2005-2016)** graduated with a 2:1 BA (Hons) in Classics from Clare College, Cambridge. She hopes to pursue a career in law.

■ **Jusden Halabi (2009-2016)** was awarded a First Class LLB (Bachelor of Laws) from the University of Warwick. He is currently at Bar School for a year in hopes of qualifying as a barrister.

■ **Pavlina Naydenova (2014-2016)** gained a 2:1 LLB (Bachelor of Laws) from the University of Kent. She is currently enrolled in a Masters degree at UCL in International Public Policy.

■ **Sonal Ohrie (2005-2016)** graduated with a 2:1 BSc in Finance Accounting and Management from the University of Nottingham. She now has a graduate job in insurance broking at AON.



■ Matthew Gibbs



■ Bianca Andrei



■ Lydia Colman



■ Sonal Ohrie



■ Nicholas Dixon



■ Odette Clark



■ Jusden Halabi



■ Pavlina Naydenova



■ Ellen Pewsey



■ Jordan Stack



■ Megan Wells

■ **Ellen Pewsey (2013-2016)** gained a 2:1 BA in History of Art BA from the University of Leicester.

■ **Roisin Saunders (2005-2016)** was awarded a First Class BSc in Criminology from the University of Leicester.

■ **Jordan Stack (2009-2016)** achieved a 2:1 BA in Geography from the University of Nottingham and is currently a Graduate Consultant in the Project and Commercial Services team at WSP.

■ **Will Weightman (2009-2016)** graduated with a 2:1 BSc (Hons) in Geography from the University of Birmingham. Following this he has embarked on the Trainee Assistant Producer Scheme at IMG studios.

■ **Megan Wells (2005-2016)** gained a 2:1 BSc in Geography from the University of Nottingham. She now works as a HR Transformation Associate at PwC.

## Year Group 2017

■ **Niamh Smith (2015-2017)** achieved the Wilfred Harrison prize for the best overall performance in her year group for her degree of politics at the University of Warwick. She took modules in 'Politics in the UK', 'International Security', 'Political Theory from Hobbes' and scored particularly highly in her module of 'Europe: Politics & Ideas'.



■ Will Weightman



■ Niamh Smith

# Other News

## British Empire Medal for Chigwell Fundraiser

Congratulations to Mrs Gill Punt who was awarded the British Empire Medal in the Queen's Birthday Honours List for her impressive efforts raising funds for Cancer Research UK and other cancer charities over the past 20 years.

A determined charity fundraiser, Gill has raised over £600,000 in almost two decades since her father died of bile duct cancer. She has run the London Marathon seven times and was awarded

a Guinness World Record when she became the fastest woman to complete a marathon in a full-body animal costume, a polar bear. Each year Gill arranges for Chigwell staff, parents, OCs and friends to participate in the Royal Parks Half Marathon which raises further funds and is one of the many events that brings the wider school community together for a good cause.

Gill said: "I'm humbled and, to be honest, rather embarrassed to have been awarded this honour. It's a huge privilege and one my late father would have been very proud of. Sadly, there is probably not one family in the country that has not been touched by cancer, so I will continue with the fundraising endeavours."





# World Peace in Canterbury, Moscow and Colchester

Nicholas Hagger (1947-1957)

Nicholas Hagger's *King Charles the Wise* came out at the end of 2018, a masque in verse that celebrates the UK's coming destiny. Zeus wants a democratic World State and sends Minerva to seek support from Prince Charles, who is alone in Buckingham Palace pondering Brexit. Minerva confronts him with the goddesses Britannia, Europa, and Columbia (who speak for the UK, Europe and the US). Prince Charles displays humanitarian feeling towards all humankind, and Minerva, goddess of wisdom, crowns him 'King Charles the Wise'.

Following the publication of this work Nicholas was invited to take part in a day-long celebration of Prince Charles's 70th birthday in the Canterbury Cathedral precincts. He was asked to read a poem, 'Pilgrims' Pavement (in Canterbury Cathedral)' which was one of the poems that appear in his *Visions of England*, which came out in early 2019.

In honour of his 80th birthday in May 2019 Nicholas was invited to visit Moscow as a special guest to talk about *World State* (see *The OC Mitre* December 2018) and call for world peace.

Also in honour of his 80th birthday the Albert Sloman Library at the University of Essex, Colchester (which holds Nicholas's archive and manuscripts as a Special Collection along with Archbishop Harsnett's papers) put on an exhibition on Nicholas's works. Three glass cases featured his *Collected Poems*, his epic poem *Overlord* (to coincide with the 75th anniversary of D-Day) and *World State* and *World Constitution* with manuscripts from his archive and a rolling slide show on his life and 50 books.



# The Possession Michael Smith (1974-1983)

*The Possession* is the second installment in *The Anomaly Files*, a series in the tradition of James Rollins of a team investigating American myths and legends.

Still recovering from the shocking revelations they uncovered deep in uncharted territory in the Grand Canyon, American myth and legend investigator Nolan Moore and his team take on a new mission, investigating a rumoured case of witchcraft and possession.

Nolan hopes their new case, in a quaint village in the middle of the woods, will prove much



more like those he and his team investigated prior to their trip to Kincaid's cavern.

But as the residents accounts of strange phenomena add up, Nolan and company begin to suspect something all too real and dangerous may be at play. A force that may not be willing to let them escape the village unscathed.

**Michael Marshall Smith** is a novelist and screenwriter. Under this name he has published 90 short stories, and five novels — *Only Forward*, *Spares*, *One of Us* and *The Servants* — winning

*the Philip K. Dick, International Horror Guild, and August Derleth awards, along with the Prix Bob Morane in France. He has won the British Fantasy Award for Best Short Fiction four times, more than any other author. In 2017 he published Hannah Green and Her Unfeasibly Mundane Existence.*

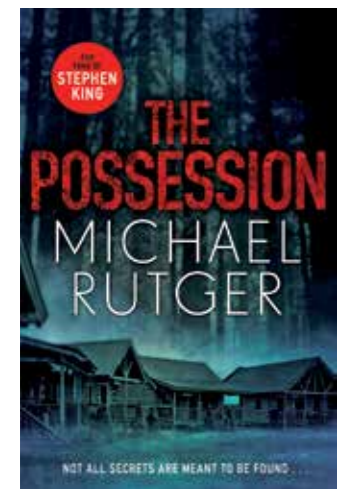
*Writing as Michael Marshall he has written seven internationally-bestselling thrillers including The Straw Men series, The Intruders — recently a BBC America series starring John Simm and Mira Sorvino — and Killer Move. His*

*most recent novel under this name is We Are Here.*

*Now additionally writing as Michael Rutger, in 2018 he published the adventure thriller The Anomaly. A sequel, The Possession, was published in 2019.*

*He is currently co-writing and exec-producing development of The Straw Men for television. He is also Creative Consultant to The Blank Corporation, Neil Gaiman's production company in Los Angeles.*

*He lives in Santa Cruz, California, with his wife, son, and three cats.*



# Freemasons' Hall Visit by Nick Garnish (1973-1983)

Approximately 30 Old Chigwellians and their guests enjoyed a private guided evening tour of Freemasons' Hall, near Holborn in January. The visit addressed some frequently asked questions and misconceptions and included access to the Grand Temple and the ceremonial areas. In addition, the visit also raised £230 donated to the Library and Museum of Freemasonry.

Freemasons' Hall has been the centre of English Freemasonry for around 230 years. It is the meeting place for over 1,000 Masonic Lodges and is the headquarters of the United Grand Lodge of England, the oldest Grand Lodge in the world.

Charity is one of the foundations of Freemasonry and therefore guests made a small charitable contribution for the tour. Nationally, the Masonic Charitable Foundation is one of the UK's top charities and in the last year contributed more than £48 million.

London Freemasons recently launched a charity appeal in support of the London Fire Brigade. They aim to raise £2.5 million for the purchase of two extended height aerial vehicles which will be the highest in Europe and will help better equip the busiest fire and rescue service in the country. The appeal is the latest step in the London Masons objective to support the London community and help make London a safer place to live and work, it follows successive appeals to purchase a state of the art Cyberknife for Bart's Hospital, five rapid responder cars for the London ambulance service, and the recent two million pounds donation to help fund London's badly needed second Air Ambulance.

Freemasons Hall is a wonderful art deco building which is richly decorated; it is listed Grade II and dates from 1927-1933. An architectural competition was chaired by Sir Edwin Lutyens awarding the winning design to architects H.V. Ashley and



F. Winton Newman. Initially it was known as the Masonic Peace Memorial. Many guests commented that they recognised the interior which has been utilised for various films and advertisements.

Our tour guide informed us that it is more than 300 years since four London Lodges met in a room above the Goose and Gridiron Ale-house in St. Paul's Churchyard to establish the world's first Grand Lodge for Freemasons. Today there are over six million freemasons

worldwide with 35,000 or so in London.

Freemasonry means different things to each of those who join. For some, it's about making new friends and acquaintances. For others it's about being able to help deserving causes — contributing to family and society. For most, it is simply an enjoyable hobby.

We are lucky to have a lodge associated with the school. The Old Chigwellian Lodge number 6648 draws its membership from Old Chigwellians and their

relatives, Staff, Governors and others closely associated with the School. If you are interested in learning more please look at our website [www.oclodge.co.uk](http://www.oclodge.co.uk) or contact the secretary by email at: [secretary@oclodge.co.uk](mailto:secretary@oclodge.co.uk)

**The OC Lodge will meet on the following Thursdays in 2020:**

*13th February, 17th September and 19th November at Mark Masons' Hall, St James' St, London and on Saturday 9th May at Chigwell School.*



# The Luncheon Club

by Richard Rosser (1955-1962) & Malcolm Rogers (1950-1959)

There is a certain amount of mystery about the origins of the OC Wednesday Luncheon Club, but it is thought that for many years the members met once a month at the King's Head in Chigwell. That was in the days when gentlemen wore flannel bags and tweed jackets. One thing is certain – for the last 40 years the lunches have been held at the OC Clubhouse in Roding Lane. Some gentlemen still wear flannel bags and tweed jackets, although the organisers are trying to persuade the members to move with the times and a jacket and tie are no longer *de rigueur*, especially in the summer months. No one has turned up in shorts as yet, but this would be no impediment!

The lunches are very informal occasions, mostly attended by between 30 and 40 OCs of varying ages, and take place, with one or two exceptions, on the first Wednesday of each month. There are no speeches and no demands for money, other than the £15 for the cost of an excellent two-course lunch, provided by Chartwells, the School Caterers. If you find yourself with time on your hands on the first Wednesday of the month, all you need to do is to send an e-mail to Malcolm Rogers or Richard Rosser, the organisers of the lunches, who will be very pleased to include you in the list of invitees. [malcolm@themusiccompany.com](mailto:malcolm@themusiccompany.com) and [richard.rosser@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:richard.rosser@hotmail.co.uk)

There are two exceptions to the Wednesday rule, the first being the Headmaster's Invitation Lunch in July and the Christmas Lunch, both of which are held nowadays in the dining hall at School, allowing us to cater for greater numbers than can be accommodated at the Clubhouse, but this means that these lunches cannot be held in each case until the day after the school term has ended, when the caterers are still on the premises.

Although we do not often have guest speakers, at our lunch in April we were privileged to hear Gabor Lacko give a very moving account of his experiences as a slave labourer in Austria under the Third Reich. Gabor managed to survive the holocaust and came to live in Chigwell.

That event was followed in May by an astonishing talk from Elizabeth Brolin-Clark, wife of Peter Clark OC, describing how she survived a fall from 10,000 feet when the light aircraft in which she was flying was broken up in a storm. She was saved by the dense foliage of the Mexican jungle!

Another highlight of summer was the 'Awayday' lunch in August, which took place for the first time at the 'Punchbowl' in High Easter. Thirty-five members enjoyed a very exclusive lunch provided by David and Penny Kelsey, the owners of the Punchbowl, where we were kindly given sole use of the restaurant and gardens.

On behalf of the members, Malcolm and I would like to express our thanks to Guy Kaye, Chartwells' Manager at the School for the excellent lunches he kindly arranges for us and for the hard work

put in by the chef and other members of Chartwells' staff, who run the bar, lay the tables and serve the lunches, all with the greatest efficiency and good humour.



# Very Old Chigwellians' Lunch

by John Tuckwell (1949-1958)

The Very Old Chigwellians had their 80s Lunch at the OCs' Clubhouse on Wednesday 26th June. We were all in 3a and 3b in 1950 and we are sure there are others whom we have not been able to reach. The lunches were originally held every ten years

and latterly every five years. This may reduce to every two years.

If you were in 3a or 3b in 1950 and would like to catch up with old classmates, please get in touch with John Tuckwell at [Tfishstitch@btinternet.com](mailto:Tfishstitch@btinternet.com).



# Recent Leavers' Party 2018

Record numbers of recent leavers headed back to Chigwell last December. Each year our newest cohort of Old Chigwellians are invited back to School to reunite with each other and reconnect with life at Chigwell. It was good to see so many leavers from the previous three years having an enjoyable reunion and hearing about their adventures post-Chigwell.



# OC Tower of London Visit

Once again, the ever-popular OC trip to the Tower of London was a sell-out. OCs of all ages delighted in a festive visit to this iconic landmark in our capital. They had a private guided tour of this historic national monument, by one of the current Yeoman Warders, when it was closed to the general public. They were able to hear the 'non tourist' 900-year history of this fascinating place and then enjoy a fish and chip supper and free bar in

the Yeoman Warders' Private Club. The evening culminated in a chance to witness the seldom seen and never televised 'Ceremony of the Keys' with the armed escort and bugler on parade. In addition, this event managed to raise £816 for the hospital radio station 'Forest Radio'.

A big thank-you again this year to Chris McDonald OC who arranged this opportunity for everyone.





# Shrove Tuesday *by Charlotte James-Pajwani (2012-2019)*

Tuesday, 5th March 2019, saw the annual gathering of Old Chigwellians for the 151st Shrove Tuesday supper.

The evening commenced in the school chapel with a wonderful service lead by Reverend Gary Scott. We witnessed readings from some of the current praefects and sung several hymns, performed very enthusiastically by OCs, who I am sure, were reminiscing

about the fond memories they all have of Chigwell School.

After this, we gathered in the dining hall and to everyone's delight, a three-course meal awaited us. The food was very well received, with Chartwell's, as usual, delivering a fine feast. It did not take long before the evening was in full swing and the dining hall was filled with stories from the past, and present. It was fascinating

for the praefects to learn what life was like as a Chigwellian, across the decades. The OCs were equally keen to hear about life as a current Chigwellian and about the hopes and ambitions of the praefects.

After the meal, the audience listened to three speeches. The OCA President, Aegean Thompson spoke first, followed by the Headmaster, and finally the current Head

of School, Charlotte James-Pajwani. The evening ended with the whole dining hall taking part in a rousing rendition of the school song, which was accompanied by the Head Boy, Lucas Abrami-Gill, on the piano. The passion from the Old Chigwellians was evident and it was a lovely way to end such a brilliant evening. The praefects and I thoroughly enjoyed ourselves, and hope all attendees did too.



# OC Black Tie Dinner 2019

On Saturday 30th March 2019 nearly 150 guests attended the OC Black Tie Dinner held for the first time in recent years at School. Festivities began with tours of School culminating in a spectacular Evensong at St Mary's Church. The Chapel Choir performed an impressive repertoire with relish to an appreciative congregation.

The drinks reception followed in the dining hall extension which gave all guests a chance to mingle. A delightful three course meal in the packed dining hall completed the events. Speeches were given by the OCA President, Ms Aegean Thompson and by the Headmaster. As one OC wrote in her praise of the

event, "it was wonderful to see the church full for the beautiful Evensong, the food was delicious, and we really enjoyed catching up with old friends and making new ones."

Due to the success of this event, the OC Black Tie Dinner will take place at School again next year on Saturday

12th September. The evening begins at 6.15pm with Choral Evensong sung by our School Chapel Choir Chapel. The pre-dinner drinks follow at 7pm and the dinner will be served in the Dining Hall at 7.30pm. The dinner is open to all OCs and, unlike our Shrove Tuesday event, spouses and partners are most welcome.



# Family Fun Day & 5-a-side football tournament

The first Chigwell Family Fun Day was a huge success and was held on one of the hottest days of the year. A mixture of nearly 50 OCs and teenage pupils from the School, gathered to play a 'round robin' football tournament as part of the Family Fun Day. Despite the heat the games were very competitive but benefited

from the 'rolling subs' rule which helped alleviate the worst effects of the heat. The Friends of Chigwell organised an amazing day of family fun with two circus performances and lots of fantastic stalls, entertainments including inflatable fun and delicious food. Joe Cole and Colebrook Royals hosted Beat the

Goal and Football skills and our own pupils performed a showcase to friends and family alike. A fabulous turnout of families enjoyed the superb day which raised over £3,000. Congratulations and a big thank-you to all the teams of volunteers who gave up their time to make the whole event such a success.

Next year we will hold our OC Day celebrations on Saturday 12th September culminating in a Black Tie Dinner in the evening. Please contact the Development Office for further details: [development@chigwell-school.org](mailto:development@chigwell-school.org)





# Chigwell School's Charity Runners *by Gill Punt*

A team of nearly 100 Chigwell School parents, staff, and Old Chigwellians ran in the Royal Parks Half Marathon for charity again this year.

The team had a wonderful day running in the capital and the race took the athletes on a stunning route past many of London's most iconic sights. All the hard work and fun saw them raise just over £87,000 for Cancer Research UK. It was brilliant to see so many of our Chigwell community come together for an exhilarating and exhausting event which has raised such a staggering total again for such an important cause.

In addition, the Pre Prep pupils took on their own challenge for CRUK by running a mini-marathon at School. Mrs Gibbs, Head of the Pre Prep, said that she was pleased with the impressive stamina and positive attitudes shown by the pupils during this exciting and entertaining event.

Selena Colmer, the Senior Manager Sports at Cancer Research UK, said, "Every year Chigwell School comes

out in force and fundraises enthusiastically for CRUK with a huge range of events that engages everyone: staff, alumni, governors, parents and pupils. Congratulations to each and every one of you who have taken part in an event this year. Whatever you have done – pulled on a pair of running shoes or supported someone else's challenge – you are making a difference. You are helping Cancer

Research UK to save lives and improve quality of life. Thank you all for your support and every penny you raise is helping us to make faster progress towards our goal of three in four people surviving cancer by 2034."

If you would be interested in participating in this event in the future please contact Gill Punt at: [development@chigwell-school.org](mailto:development@chigwell-school.org)



TUESDAY 25TH FEBRUARY 2020

### Programme:

- 6.50pm – Chapel Service
- 7.00pm – Bar opens in the Swallow Room
- 7.45pm – Supper in the Dining Hall

**Ticket: £39.50 per person**

(includes three-course meal with half a bottle of wine)

Please return to: Mrs Gill Punt, Development Office, Chigwell School, High Road, Chigwell, Essex IG7 6QF, not later than 3rd February 2020. Enquiries: Tel 020 8501 5748. Email [development@chigwell-school.org](mailto:development@chigwell-school.org)

Name (IN BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE):

Address:

Town:  County:  Post Code:

Tel No:  Mobile:

Email Address:

**I would like to attend the 152nd Shrove Tuesday Supper on Tuesday 25th February 2020.**

Please book me  places at £39.50 per ticket, for a total of £

Signed:  Date:

Cheque payable to **Chigwell School**, or you can make a bank transfer payment by using the following details:  
 Bank: HSBC Sort Code: 40-47-15 Account No: 00232157  
 Please use the reference **Shrove2020** and add your surname to identify your payment.

If you have any special dietary requirements or would prefer the vegetarian option for this event please contact the Development Office.





## CHIGWELL SCHOOL BURSARY FUND

### *Changing Lives since 1629*

“ I support the Bursary Fund campaign because the School’s mission remains as true today as it did for Samuel Harsnett nearly 400 years ago. We need to support those children who possess talent, ability and dedication, but who lack the financial means to benefit from the educational experience Chigwell School can offer. — **Michael Punt, Headmaster** ”

“ I wanted to thank Chigwell for the fantastic opportunities it has given me because of my bursary. I am determined to make everyone proud of me. — **Bursary recipient** ”



*8% of pupils across the School are currently benefiting from bursaries*

Change a life with a gift of £15,000...

**100**  
people each giving a donation of **£150**



**10**  
people each giving a donation of **£1,500**

For more information contact Gill Punt in the Development Office, 020 8501 5748 [development@chigwell-school.org](mailto:development@chigwell-school.org) or visit [www.chigwell-school.org/bursaries](http://www.chigwell-school.org/bursaries)



**SATURDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER 2020**

#### Programme:

- 6.15pm – Evensong with the Chapel Choir
  - 7.00pm – Drinks Reception in the Swallow Room
  - 7.30pm – Three-Course Dinner in the School Dining Hall
- Tours of School are available before Evensong.

**Ticket: £45 per person (Under 25s: £30 per person)**

(includes pre-dinner drinks reception and a three-course meal with half a bottle of wine)

Please return to: Mrs Gill Punt, Development Office, Chigwell School, High Road, Chigwell, Essex IG7 6QF, not later than 1st June 2020. Enquiries: Tel 020 8501 5748. Email [development@chigwell-school.org](mailto:development@chigwell-school.org)

Name (IN BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Town: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_ Post Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel No: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**I would like to attend the Black Tie Dinner on Saturday 12th September 2020.**

Please book me  places at £45 per ticket (£30 for Under 25s), for a total of £

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Cheque payable to **Chigwell School**, or you can make a bank transfer payment by using the following details:  
 Bank: HSBC Sort Code: 40-47-15 Account No: 00232157  
 Please use the reference **BTD2020** and add your surname to identify your payment.

If you have any special dietary requirements or would prefer the vegetarian option for this event please contact the Development Office.



# Leaving a Legacy to Chigwell School

*Chigwell School has always been ahead of the times. It was founded by Archbishop Samuel Harsnett with a mission – to provide free or heavily subsidised places for local 'poorer Scholars'. Four centuries later, this is still very much one of the School's top main goals.*

Legacies are vital to our ability to fund bursaries for the neediest of pupils at Chigwell School. We understand that decisions concerning your Will are very personal and your family will be your first priority, we hope you might consider supporting future generations of pupils by including Chigwell School in your Will.

Legacy bequests are free from inheritance tax and gifts of shares and property are exempt from capital gains tax. Making a Will is an important step and it is recommended that you seek independent professional legacy advice. When making a bequest in your Will, please note that the beneficiary should be Chigwell School, registered charity number 1115098.

### The 1629 Society

We appreciate that making a bequest to Chigwell is a very personal decision. We understand that and, of course, would guarantee anonymity and respect privacy. However, we hope that you will inform us of your intentions so that we can thank you for your kindness and generosity during your lifetime.

In order that we can recognise the kindness of those who have remembered Chigwell in their Will we have created the 1629 Society, marking the year our School was founded by Archbishop Samuel Harsnett. Everybody who has made us aware of their intention to include the School in their Will automatically becomes a member.

For further information please contact the Development Office, T: 020 8501 5748, E: [development@chigwell-school.org](mailto:development@chigwell-school.org)

# The 95th Annual OCFC Supper by Paul Garfield (1983-1990)

This year's club supper was another enormously enjoyable and well supported evening. Newcastle and Portsmouth legend, Micky Quinn, was

guest speaker and true to tradition he sportingly wore his Old Chigwellians' tie throughout the evening.

- The Player of the Year awards were as follows:*
- 1st XI – Jack Nolan
  - 2nd XI – Nick Brown & Will Taylor
  - 3rd XI – Freddie Cooper
  - Veterans – Luke Berry
  - Top Goalscorer – Luke Berry
  - Young Player of the Year – Jack Redmond



# Chigwell's Corinthian Spirit

Chigwell School hosted a Corinthian-Casual School XI with a few familiar faces, such as Old Chigwellian Ben Shephard. Corinthian Casuals play fixtures that are some of the oldest held ties in world football. Head of Football, Andy Bruce remarked that the Corinthian spirit is alive and is a great example to our young men of how football should be played.

The game was close throughout with Chigwell holding their own, until the last ten minutes, against an older but more experienced side. He said that it was a tough game, played in the right spirit and it was an absolute honour to be involved in a match against a team with such history. The final score saw the Corinthian-Casuals win 2-0.

The Corinthian Spirit award was given to Joe Williams, the Chigwell captain because he played an excellent, mature and sporting match.



Right: Corinthian-Casuals' Ben Shephard and Joe Williams





# 1st XI Football *by Christian Purdy*



■ Back row (L-R): A. Gandhi, S. Douglas, M. Rutherford, C. Purdy, W. Sibley, A. Taylor, J. Coppard, E. Sibley, R. Taylor  
Front row (L-R): J. David, B. Alexander, G. Salmon, J. Nolan, R. Farrant, N. Kala, T. Evans

Transition year for the 1st team this season with seven new players starting the first game of the season compared to those who finished the season last year. New additions included Will Sibley, Matt Rutherford and George Salmon. Will Sibley (GK) grew with confidence each game and was a vital player to the 1st team this season.

An opening day win was followed by five straight defeats, four of which were in cup games. Regrouping the team went on a good run to Christmas finishing the year with a huge 3-1 away win to Old Salopians in the pouring rain on December 14th.

A very tight and tense finish to the year resulted in three points separating 2nd and 8th going into the final few weeks of the season. A 1-0 home win against Wydemists and a 0-0 away draw to Charterhouse was enough for Chigwellians to finish 5th, with four more points than last season. Ryan Farrant was a very good addition to the squad scoring two and assisting three in the final few games of the season.

We have managed to keep the same squad and have recruited a couple of extras for the 19/20 season ahead.

A reminder to all boys, we train on Tuesday nights on the astro – everyone is welcome to join.

## OC 1st XI v School

On an extremely hot day September day, the OC 1st XI played the School in an excellent, closely fought match. Both sides demonstrated ability, controlling possession when they had it and they both created good chances. The Old Chigwellians drew spectacular saves from Akash Sinha in goal for the School, but he could not keep a clean sheet as the OCs made the breakthrough just before half time scoring with a deflected effort that nestled in the corner. The second half was a similar affair with the OCs scoring twice, once against the run of play and a final goal late on to finish the School off. In the end experience and physicality took its toll and shone through. Head of Football, Andy Bruce, commented that it was another great experience for the School that would set them in good stead for the rest of the season.



# 2nd XI Football *by Adam Tomkins (1996-2007)*

The 2018/19 season saw the Old Chigs 2s back in the big time after a two-year hiatus and ready to test ourselves against the giants of Arthurian League Division 2 once again.

Unfortunately, a solid pre-season, equipped with a real life coach couldn't stop us kicking off the campaign with our customary slow start as my request to postpone the start of the season until after the Ibiza closing parties fell on the League Secretary's deaf ears. Four straight losses put us under immediate pressure. However, a testament to the team's character was how we bounced back yet again as we went the next seven games unbeaten. Good results against Eton, Lancing, Kings and an extremely rare win against Charterhouse, the eventual champions, meant we were sitting comfortably at Christmas. Inconsistent form for the rest of the season held us back from making a march up the league but by this point, we had done more than enough to finish 7th and secure safety in our first season back. Our defensive record was the 3rd best in the league but ultimately scoring 19 goals in 18 games wasn't enough to challenge the leaders. My managerial 4-3-3 style clearly doesn't lend itself to free-flowing entertaining football for the neutral.



■ Back Row (L-R): Rory Taylor, Josh Coppeard, Adam Tomkins, Nick Brown, Dean Ben-Yosef, Tom Steward, Ed Sibley  
Front Row (L-R): Greg Stobart, Ben Alexander, Tom Gandhi, Jack Redmond, Nad Kala, Tom Parsons

I can't spend too long on tales of great comebacks or victories as to quote Ben Alexander's text when voting on the player of the season, 'er, we were all a bit average, weren't we?' However, I think we underestimated our achievement this season. Three years ago, we were relegated from this league with

five points from 16 games, three of which were deducted, leaving us on just two. Since then we have rebuilt ourselves into a side that have the ability to be a top three or four side in this league and finally challenge for silverware.

It's been a pleasure to be 2s and club captain and to have played with so many characters

throughout the years. I hand over the 2s captaincy to Ed Sibley and Ant Koczan who I know will build on what we have achieved over the last few years, work our way up the league and enjoy ourselves along the way.

*2nd XI player of the season was shared between Nick Brown and Will Taylor.*

# 3rd XI Football *by Chris Price (2002-2009)*

Taking on the role of 3rd XI captain was no easy task but I felt up for the challenge at the start of the season. The captains of all three sections joined forces and combined all squads together making it easier for us to pick our match day players for the Saturdays. Unfortunately, when it came to mid-way through the season, the total squad number started diminishing and thus the 3s lost out on players. Nonetheless, the 3s got off to a cracking start. Instead of

being slammed in the opening games quite often by six or eight goals, we lost two by only one goal and drew the following two, which showed great promise for the rest of the season. However, it wasn't to be.

I would rather like to stay clear of our statistics for the season and concentrate more on the reasons as to why I believe the 3s didn't have such a successful season, so we can look to improve on the next. I had 42 different players play

for me during the season – in a way that's a huge positive and just shows how across the three teams we have so much more liquidity and team spirit which I hope will continue into next season. However, this doesn't prove well when you are trying to gel as a team and win matches. I would also like to say a huge thanks to some of the younger guys coming through the teams as they are the future of the club.

However, I have thoroughly enjoyed playing and captaining

the 3s this season; we ended on a high and we had some great games. Special thanks to all the players that consistently turned up each week come rain or shine, and a special mention for my Player of the Season, Mr James McKenna. I have to regretfully announce that I will be stepping down as captain for next season but I wish the team all the best and hope to be a part of a more successful season.



# Old Chigwellians Vets Season 2018/2019

by Jonathan Mahoney (1986-1995)



After enjoying cup success in the London Old Boys the previous season the Vets priority was to target promotion from the league. This was our second season in the Greene King Division 2 West and after a mid-table finish last year we believed we had enough quality in the squad to achieve our goal. Pre-season saw the loss of a couple of members of the squad due to injury but the addition of Luke Berry added extra firepower to the squad and along with the 2017/2018 top scorer Jamie Smith, the pair would look to fire the Vets to the league title.

The campaign began well with the Vets reeling off a number of home wins on what can only be described as the best pitch in the league by far, and we topped the table from day one. The surface aided the Vets style of play as we always looked to get the ball on the deck and play attractive attacking football. Off the ball our pressing was excellent and our fitness as a squad proved

too much for many teams to handle. An early home win 3-2 against Old Barkabbeyans we knew could be important come the end of the season as both sides started the season well and looked to be the strongest outfits. This was certainly to be the case as both teams started dishing out heavy beatings to many of the other teams including the Vets putting 12 past Hale end and 14 past Britannia.

The Vets had secured promotion with several games to go, and so the title decider against Old Barkabbeyans was our final game of the season. As our cup runs would mirror our league campaign it was to be a story of so near but no cigar. We lost a hard fought game 3-2 and came runners-up in the league on goal difference. Although promotion was our goal which was ultimately achieved the finish to the season felt like a letdown.

The Vets finished with a record of Played 18, won 14,

drew 1, lost 3, scored 78, conceded 17.

The bulk of the goals came from Luke Berry and Jamie Smith and it was Luke who finished as runner-up in the golden boot for the league but won the far more prestigious Vets Player of the Season award. Credit too must go to Mark Flashman and James Brown in goal and a defence made up mainly of Dylan Williams, Steve Beverly, Peter Cooper, James Gilzean, Paul Garfield, Phil Barnes and Creag Lawrence with many others filling in who helped secure the best defensive record in the league.

Vets Skipper Peter Vohman juggled our cup schedule dropping us out of one cup competition for this season but signing us up for a more prestigious one instead in the AFA over-40s. So we had six cup competitions including the Wednesday evening cup at Wormley. Having only gone out of the London Old Boys cup early, the Vets reached

an unprecedented five semi-finals, highlights of which were winning away at Eton in the Dunn Quarter-Final, winning 3-1 after extra time away against an excellent Wormley side in the AFA and a smashing of Old Albanians 4-1 in the Old Boys semi-final at home. A technicality saw the Vets get kicked out of the AFA Cup after beating Old Albanians on penalties in the semi-final due to our 40-year-old player not being 40 on the registration date for the competition rather than the day of the game. So it was to be just one cup final for the Vets in the Old Boys cup, which we never quite got going in, losing to Old Ignations.

Finally, a special thanks to the travelling support all season from the injured Robbie Maynard, and no report would be complete without a thanks to the best supporters in the ICF comprised of Nigel Davies, Richard Rosser, Keith Mitchell, Pat Ward, Mike Hutching and Dave Morrison.

# Old Chigwellian Golf Society Report

by Mark Flack (1980-1989)

It has been a great pleasure to captain the golf society this year I am delighted to report an increasing number of younger members actively involved in both competitive and social golf. The first serious golf of the year was, as ever, the Halford Hewitt at which we were handed a tough draw against the Edinburgh Academicals on the beautiful links of the Royal Cinque Ports in Deal. Looking to win a match in the main competition for the first time since 2001, team manager James Houghton took a bold and innovative approach to selection this year which looked like it might pay off when we were ahead at the turn. However, some strong golf on the homeward nine from the Accies saw them triumph 3.5-1.5 although special mention to the experienced pairing of Alan Carpenter and Dan Goddard for securing a full point. We had high hopes of a good run in the Plate but suffered a narrow loss to Westminster in the opening round. Sam Pinching and Sam Oxley put up a brave fight in the deciding game but were denied a chance of victory when Sam Ox couldn't quite get inside the Westminster ball on the par three 17th. This was swiftly followed by 2-1 defeat at the hands of the schoolboys at Chigwell GC, hopefully the sign of a bright future for OC golf!

Better times were ahead at the Grafton Morrish qualifying at Denham in May. Our three pairs of Jon Bint/Joe Klein, James Houghton/Richard Gull and Alan Carpenter/Mark Flack scored a cumulative 87 stableford points which is apparently our highest qualifying total for at least 20 years.

May also saw the first society meetings of the calendar year with the Past Captains meeting at Hunstanton and the Spring Meeting at Royal Worlington. Organiser Stuart Harding took the spoils in the



■ Pictured, top row (L-R): David Oxley, Philip Oxley, Anthony Robson (Organiser)  
Bottom row: Michael Wood, Sue Durell and Graham Wood

Past Captains winning the morning Stableford and then teaming up with the current captain to take the afternoon foursomes. Fantastic weather and hospitality greeted us at Royal Worlington for the Spring Meeting where the Scratch Salver was won by Hon. Secretary Miles Taylor with 29 scratch points, the Handicap Singles by Charlie Biss (35 points), the Rabbits Cup by David Oxley (35 points) and the afternoon foursomes by Gerald Coleman and Mark Flack (40 points). The afternoon foursomes are played for the Durell Cups donated by David 'Double Dangerous' Durell and all OCs will be saddened by the news of David's untimely death last year. Our thoughts are with his wife Sue, pictured above with some of David's OC friends at the Autumn Weekend at Deal (see photo).

Moving through the summer months, we had an excellent run in the 'Essex League' beating Forest, Brentwood

and Bancrofts en route to taking the title. Thanks to Micky Wood for overseeing this series of matches and to Chris Sydenham, Philip Oxley and Buster Oxley for organising individual matches. June also saw the over 50s scratch team of Charlie Biss, Alan Carpenter, Tim Ager, Buster Oxley, Andrew Ruston, Miles Taylor and Simon Hutchin have a good run in the Cyril Gray at Worplesden defeating Trent and Taunton before losing to Rossall in the quarter-finals.

One of the highlights of the OC golfing calendar is the Autumn Weekend at Deal, organised as ever by Anthony Robson. The prizes this year were dominated by Buster Oxley (Scratch Salver and Weekend 'Pot') and Matt Hutchin (Presidents Cup and Foursomes with John Conolly). The Captain's Prize was notable for the fact that the captain had no idea of its existence so thank you to Miles for stepping in to provide

the champagne for Buster! The Autumn weekend was swiftly followed by Captains Day at Walton Heath where Buster was installed as the hot favourite after his exploits at Deal. Having generously cut his handicap by two shots he posted a respectable 33 points in the singles stableford only to be pipped by a point by Tim Ager, playing off perhaps a slightly generous handicap, who recorded his first 'win' since c.1987. Thank you to all the OC golfers who have supported me during the year and I look forward to handing over the reins to my successor at the Yuletide meeting in December. As is hopefully evident from this report, the OCGS offers a wide variety of social and competitive golf and it would be great to see some more new faces next year. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact the society secretary Miles Taylor [milestaylor@btinternet.com](mailto:milestaylor@btinternet.com)



# Tennis Report by Howard Berndes (1967-1974)



After gaining promotion last year by default up to Division 3, due to other teams dropping out of the league, we struggled to find our feet in the higher division. However, this didn't stop it being another enjoyable season with an excellent team spirit and much fun had by all.

Despite strong camaraderie and giving a good account of ourselves in most matches,

we did find it hard to get over the winning line. Although we did achieve some hard earned nail-biting draws before finally winning our final game against old rivals Buckhurst Hill.

There were some fine performances throughout the season by a number of our regular players including Richard Potter, Shak Chaudhary, Nick Garnish, Simon Phelps, Ali Hai, Chris Taylor as well as newcomers Mike Bond and Abrie Botha. The team was also bolstered at times by invaluable contributions from some of our better players from our now defunct first team, notably from brothers Will and Rory Taylor and Max Berndes.

Thanks again to Ross Berndes, affectionately known as El Captain, for all his hard work organising the team, his kind and generous hospitality for home matches which remains unrivalled with other clubs and his WhatsApp summaries of

outstanding (or otherwise) individual achievements and moments.

As always, I cannot finish the report by not mentioning how blessed we are with the excellent facilities and the school's invaluable contribution with maintaining the grounds and clubhouse. I would also like to mention that newcomers, young or old, are always welcome. We are hoping to have an intensive pre-season boot camp before the start of next season which would be an ideal opportunity for anyone wanting to join us to come along. Please contact Ross ([ross@rossmotors.co.uk](mailto:ross@rossmotors.co.uk)) as it would be lovely to strengthen our squad particularly with some younger members, so that we can enter a second team again the following year. In addition, I would like to encourage female OCs to come and play too, so we could enrol a ladies team once more.

## OC Ladies' Hockey

Sixteen OC ladies who left Chigwell in recent years formed a squad to play hockey against an Old Loughtonians' side. Although the result was 3-1 in favour of OLHC, the game was played in a very good spirit and for some OCs, this was the first time they had played hockey since leaving School. We hope that future matches will take place.



# David John Durell (1961-1968)

*Extract from the eulogy written by Oliver Durell (David's son)*

Born in Romford on the 22nd October 1951 to Edward and Daphne Durell, David became a younger brother to Tim. He attended Chigwell School from 1961-1968. Afterwards he spent time in Germany and France learning the wine trade where he quickly developed a keen interest in not only wine but the entertainment and hospitality business. It would be fair to say that amongst the bluster, he developed a superb nose for wine and a reliable palette. His aptitude for public speaking and hosting were factors in him really finding his niche in the world of food and drink.

David married Theo in 1983, having spent many happy years together and were later blessed with the arrival of me and Pips. It brings me immense pleasure to know that DD was with Pips and me for so many of our achievements. We always wanted to make him proud and can only apologise to anyone who had to listen to him talk endlessly about his understanding that Lloyd's was a bank, or Vogue was an adjective.

2005 was an immensely successful summer, an Ashes victory coinciding with meeting Sue on the lawn of St John's Wood Church, where they were married the following year. Sue quickly became the rock to which DD was moored for the last 12 years of his life, and one must not underestimate the strength of rock required to anchor HMS Durell. They endured a tough time at The Chapter Arms in Kent but they made it a popular place to visit, eat, drink and laugh. They stuck together and were a fantastic team, DD drawing the masses in with his presence behind the bar. "What we learn only through the ears makes less impression upon our minds than what is presented through the trustworthy eye." This quote from Horace, the leading Roman poet, with

whom my father shared a dormitory at prep school, seems particularly apt. He was full of colour: The Spoofer's, Upper Clapton, Purchasers and the MCC all causes and clubs he cared passionately for. In his latter years, his colourful dress sense began to rival the eccentricity of his story-telling.

Service in the Crimean, Boer and Zulu campaigns including a pivotal role at Rawkes Drift, and the Battle of Britain and first off the boat at D-Day. Fielding at square leg for Bradman's last innings. His use of the term 'we' in his regaling of past events could, if taken literally, have lead you to believe he'd had a seriously distinguished sporting and military career. More poignantly, however, he rarely, if ever, started a story with "when I...". Every story he told, prank he recalled or epic sporting occasion he witnessed begun with 'we'. I feel strongly that this quality, the love of team play and collective nuisance, was central in the reasoning why so many loved him.

In the film *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*, Dumbledore says to an emotional Harry: "You think the dead we have loved ever truly leave us? You think that we don't recall them more clearly than ever in times of great trouble? Your father is alive in you, Harry, and shows himself most plainly when you have need of him." I thought this passage was touching as I fondly remember Pips and I going to watch *Harry Potter* with DD in the cinema. He fell asleep within ten minutes, snoring his way through the duration of the film, much to the annoyance of the patrons of the Canterbury Odeon.

Since his passing we have heard from many people who spent time working at his events, bars or pubs. He was a huge part of the formative years of so many young



people, encouraging them to spend time in adult company and learn key social skills. One particularly touching message read: "Looking back I think he perfected the art of being 21 at heart for the majority of his life. I have learnt so many valuable life lessons and was taught a lust for life from David. I hope I can inspire my own boys in the way he has me."

He finished as he left off, a dedicated story-teller, loyal friend, mischief-maker, loving husband and father. He was incredibly kind. His sense of humour, steeped in old-fashioned tomfoolery and prep school banality, was infectious. He made people want to be in his company. He truly left it all out on the field. In cricket, the fall of any wicket comes not as a total surprise, and in the game we all play called life there is, sadly, no such thing as being 'not out'.

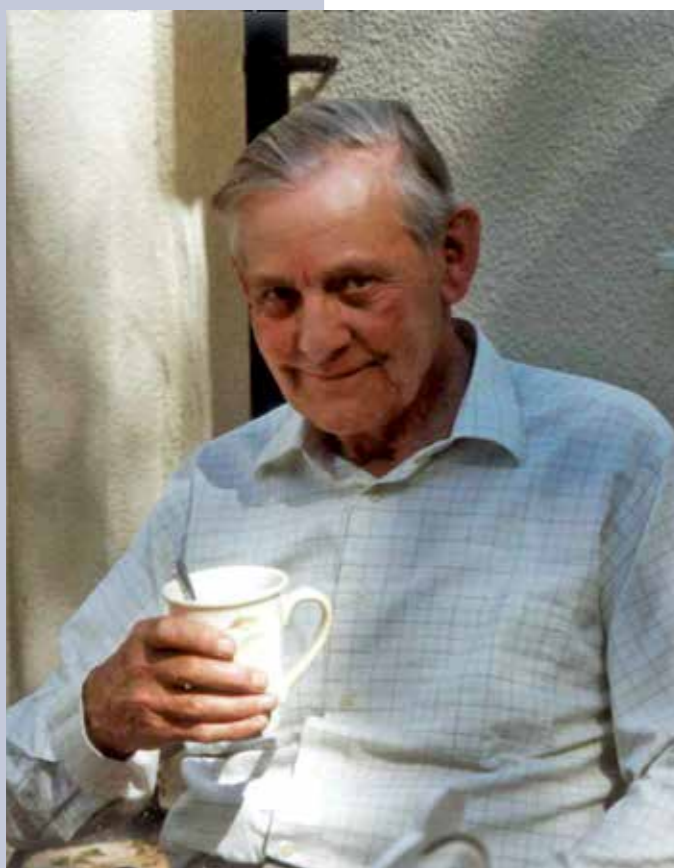
We all just wish we'd had a little more time watching him bat.





## John David Clarke (1945-1954)

by Christine Clarke



John was born at the Ongar War Memorial Hospital to Bob and Doris Clarke of Arnolds Farm, Stapleford Tawney, Essex on the 14th July 1936. He entered Chigwell in September 1945. John was very academic with a particular love of history. He was a keen cricket player. John left Chigwell in June 1954 and spent three years on the family farm before joining the British Sugar Corporation for six years, after which he took a position with Agricultural Futures Brokers in London. He was then head-hunted by Rank Hovis McDougall where he became chief 'pulses and wheat' trader for East Anglia. In early 1990 he formed his own grain trading company from which he retired only eight years ago.

John married Christine in 1965 and they lived in Blackmore before moving to White Roding in 1969. An avid reader, keen

gardener and photographer. His main interest was in classical music, particularly Beethoven, and was an expert on the conductor Sir Thomas Beecham. John built a wonderful music collection, part of which he left to the school.

John and Christine pursued many country sports and travelled extensively. Creating a beautiful garden, John could be found most days out in his garden with his animals. On his retirement John re-established his links with Chigwell School by joining the OC's luncheon club where he was a very popular and regular attendee.

John was a unique generous gentleman, a good listener who left a great impression on all who had the pleasure of knowing him. Sadly, after a short illness he passed away on the 11th November 2018 and is so missed.

## Paul Calthorpe (1947-1956)

by Mrs Pauline Calthorpe



Paul considered himself extremely fortunate to attend Chigwell. Shortly after the end of the Second World War his parents divorced. In 1946 he moved with his mother to live in South London where he attended the local council school in Effra Parade.

Financial and environmental circumstances were difficult, compelling them to live in three rooms of a partially damaged house next to a cleared bomb site. Around that time the London County Council (LCC) was placing selected boys from distressed circumstances into Public Schools and covering their education and boarding fees. Paul's mother applied to the LCC on behalf of her son who was granted a place at Chigwell School, subject to interview and acceptance by the Headmaster. Paul thrived at Chigwell and did well both academically and in his extra-curricular activities, such as the Chapel Choir, stage manager for *Macbeth*, and bugler in the Drums Corps.

Between 1957 and 1959 Paul undertook National Service

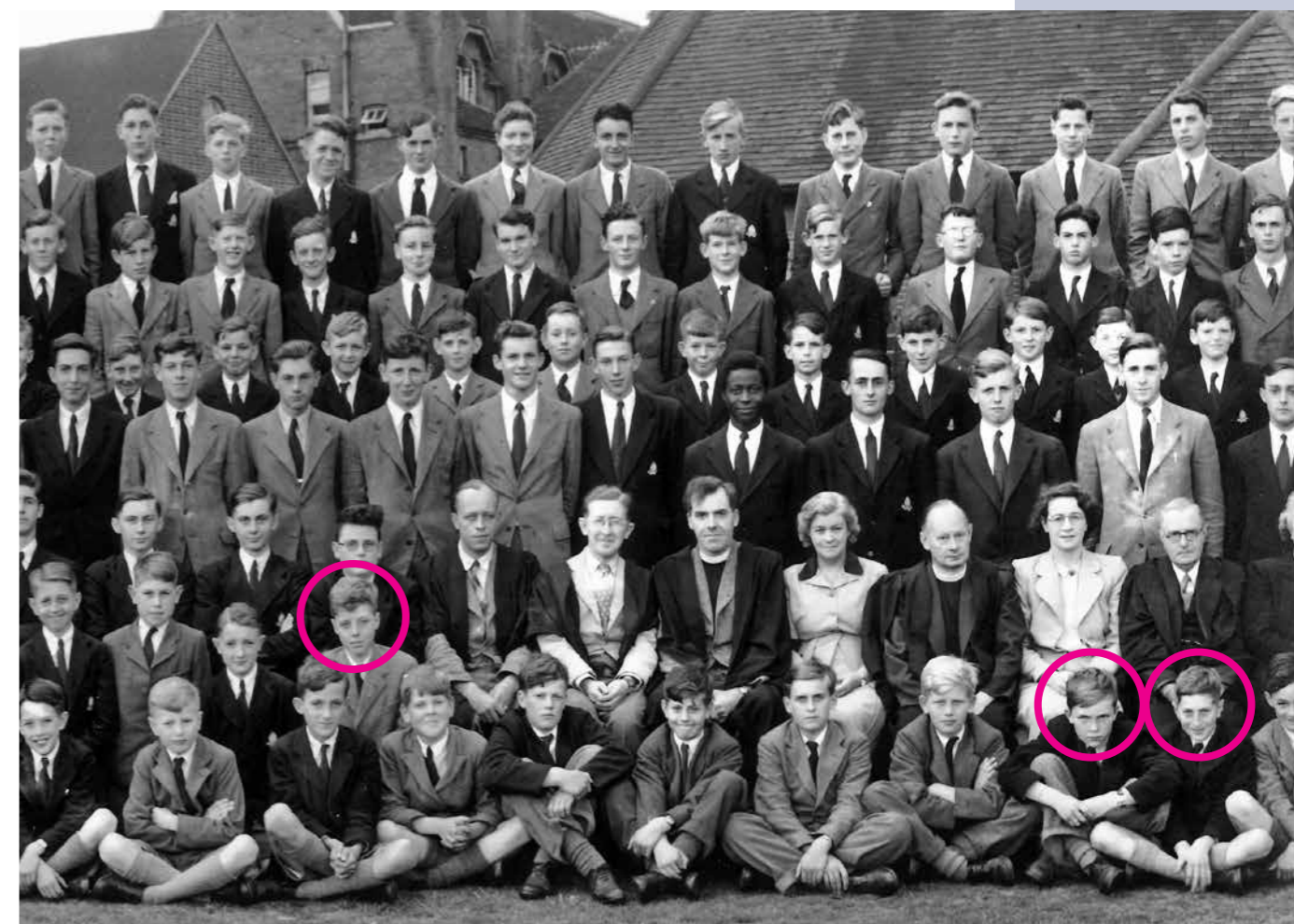
in the Royal Corps of Signals as a Radio Technician, COMCAN (Commonwealth Communications Army Network). He was stationed in Singapore from 1958 to 1959. When he finished his National Service he worked for Mercantile Bank Ltd, London with a spell in Hong Kong too. He later worked for The Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, London and was appointed Manager of the London Chinatown branch in 1977.

Shortly after his mother died, Paul and his wife Pauline left the UK to live in Penang, Malaysia, where they arrived in 1996. Several years later they moved to Shah Alam in Selangor State, finally returning to England in 2011.

## Richard Douglas Fradd (1946-1954)

### 'A true man of the soil'

by David 'Hoppo' Hoppit (1949-1957)



Richard Douglas Fradd, plant grower extraordinaire and all-round splendid fellow, died on June 26th after enduring several months confined to his living room in Theydon Mount with a complicated fracture of the leg close to his hip. Fradd was 'an outdoor man', having spent his entire working life growing plants, particularly chrysanthemums, splitting logs and feeding his chickens, so this injury was particularly hard for him to endure.

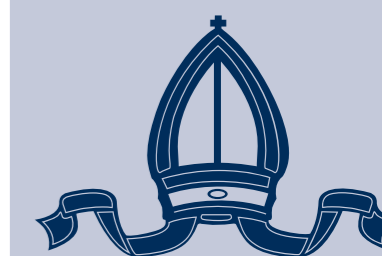
He reached his four-score years a few weeks before last Christmas but was not disposed to travel or explore the world. He once ventured by tube into London, but vowed never to attempt the journey again, so crowded had the train been for the journey; and it wasn't even rush hour. Like the other boys in 3B Fradd

was an 'old bug' when, with Neville Choat, I made my way nervously to Grange Court on that autumn morning in 1949. 'Old Bugs' had been at school for at least two years. We were 'new bugs', so were expected to defer to all the other boys. We never used Christian names in those distant days. If your name was Smith and you had a little brother you were Smith Major and he was Smith Minor. Fradd had a little brother (David) so he was Fradd Major and Choat, similarly, had a younger brother, (Guy) so he was Choat Major. Even today at OC reunions we still use surnames. If someone addressed me as David, I would probably think he was speaking to someone else!

Choat and I were sent to 3B because we had never even heard of Latin, let alone

studied it; and in the B forms we remained. Fradd and I soon clicked and the friendship grew and endured. We collected everything – coins, stamps, bird eggs, butterflies, fossils and geological specimens... even cheese labels; but his real interests were growing and the countryside. From a very early age he had an allotment and grew vegetables for the family, selling surplus in the local market to boost his pocket money. Despite this collecting bug we were not what might be described as 'academic'. I was 'sporty' but Fradd was more concerned about his chickens and vegetables. We did cross-country running on sports days – I because I liked it but Fradd because it enabled him to get away early. He was always among the first home, not because he liked

■ School photo 1950. Circled L-R: Michael Rose, Richard Fradd and David Hoppit





running but because it meant he could 'escape' early to set his rabbit traps.

Morning breaks were spent at the tuck shop and playing marbles (Fradd and Hinman were the boys who ruled marble encounters). Lunch hour was spent most days playing 'he' in big top. Big Top is a huge, pollarded oak tree on the edge of Middle Field (it's still there) and Fradd, Choat and Hoppit leaped from branch to branch trying to catch one another. However, the biggest difference between boys at school in the 1950s and '60s and today is their methods of communication. Mobile telephones and other gadgets that most take for granted now

were distant dreams. Boys simply spoke to one another and read comics! Some of the lessons were interesting to us. We particularly enjoyed carpentry with Charlie Lister held in the little white building near Hainault House, now surrounded by grand gymnasia and music rooms that did not exist when we were getting on with our joints. Outside school we did, however, dabble in another sport – boxing. We joined a club in Woodford Bridge and actually fought a few contests, with some success. Fradd gave up because his eyes watered and looked as though he was crying, which he wasn't. Fradd left school after O levels and ventured

into the world of horticulture, in which he stayed for the rest of his life. At that time National Service awaited boys when they reached 18 but Fradd somehow evaded it. We both grew chrysanthemums and that was a shared interest that lasted right up to the present. For me it was a hobby but Fradd carved out a career growing them, along with other plants when he eventually got his own nursery, Shalesmere, beside the River Roding. He spent three months digging and draining the land by hand.

Eventually we discovered maidens and, with marriage not far ahead, I asked him to be an usher at our wedding, in Wendens Ambo, near Saffron Walden. My best man was another OC from a musical family, Michael Rose, whose father was organist at St Mary's, Chigwell. Michael brought his little sister Anne to the wedding and asked Fradd if he could keep her company. The rest, as they say, is history. They produced four boys, Peter, John, Nicholas and Thomas. Fradd loved his food; and the occasional whisky or glass of wine. Breakfast was always the most important meal and against all the current health advice he insisted upon having a cooked breakfast every morning. This set him up for the day. We kept in touch and he called in for coffee every Sunday morning. There we exchanged news and solved the problems of the world and even exchanged a few plants. If I had a gardening query he could usually solve it. Oh, how I shall miss those meetings.

Richard Douglas Fradd was born on 28th November 1938 and he died on 26th June this year. St Mary's Church, Chigwell was packed for the memorial service on 19th July, with a superb choir organised by his wife Anne. He was later buried a few feet from his parents' grave at St Michael's Church, Theydon Mount, which is exactly halfway between his cottage on Theydon Mount and his Shalesmere Nursery by the River Roding, at the bottom of the hill.

■ L-R: OCs Michael Rose, David Hoppit and Richard Fradd



## Douglas Riddle (1928-1940)

by Clive Riddle (1977-1980)

Douglas Riddle was born on 24 February 1922 in Ilford, London to Samuel and Amy Riddle, and had a sister, Jean, who was three years older.

He went to Chigwell Public School at the age of six and completed all of his education until he left in 1940. Not only was he a good scholar but he was also a great footballer and runner. His achievements included winning prizes for education, winning the cross country Withers Cup at junior school, winning the cross country Dean Cup at senior school and also representing the school at football.

On leaving school, Doug asked his father's permission to join the RAF and 'do his bit for the country' but his father suggested that wasn't a good idea and stated he needed to get a job first to come back to. Doug became a bank clerk with National Provincial Bank, following in his father's footsteps, and worked for exactly one year before asking his father again to join up. His father agreed and in July 1941 Doug joined the RAF hoping to become a Spitfire pilot. Unfortunately, his eye sight didn't pass the requirements at that time and he was asked to choose another role. In the end he elected to choose something that was just coming to the forefront of warfare, Radar.

In December 1942 he deployed with his radar troop to Gibraltar, and then into Algiers, North Africa where he stayed for approximately two years. During this time he stayed with a French Algerian family for almost a year where dad said it was like having a second mother and father. He said he was very well looked after and tells the story that during meal times he had to leave food on his plate so the servants could eat something. In November 1944 he sailed to Taranto, in Southern Italy and by October 1945 had moved through the country

up to Milan with the Eighth Army providing radar support for the air war. In April 1946 he returned from overseas to Dorset and was demobbed in September to return home.

On return from war Doug continued to play football for the Old Chigwellians and this became a large part of his social scene with playing football on Saturdays, and meeting at the Kings Head pub in Chigwell with the other team players until they closed. At the end of the night he would then walk home to Ilford, a distance of about five miles. During one of these nights he offered to buy Sarah a drink, to which she said yes, and then she had to pay for as Doug realised, with horror, that he didn't have any money. They continued to go out with each other until Doug proposed to her and married in March 1960. In 1961 they had a son Guy (1974-1977) and in 1964 they had a second son Clive (1977-1980).

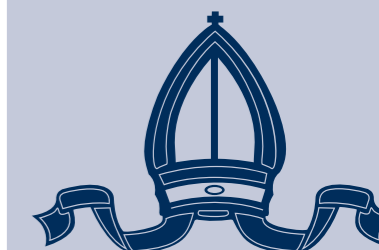
Doug continued to work for the bank and soon became a Junior Manager, then Manager before retiring in 1982 as the Area Bank Manager of the National Westminster Bank Dagenham branch, where he looked after all of Ford Motor Company's accounts. Doug and Sarah had both been members of the Chigwell Golf Club and after retirement Doug started playing golf during the week as well as the usual Sunday mornings. Doug gave up his time freely to charity and worked for 37 years for the Orsett Hospital as their Treasurer and would always be at Orsett Hospital on Christmas mornings to assist in handing out Christmas gifts to the sick children on the wards. Doug also loved keeping in touch with his school chums and organised the Old Chigwellian monthly lunches for 15 years. Doug and Sarah had a great social life during their marriage and the house would always be full of family and friends for dinner parties and functions.



They really were great together and would be the best of hosts ensuring everyone was enjoying themselves and had all their needs attended to.

Doug and Sarah visited Australia often to see Guy and his family and decided that they also would like to move to Australia and submitted their paperwork to emigrate in 2002, however, it was during this process that Sarah was diagnosed with cancer. After a long battle Sarah passed away on the 25 March 2009 at home with Doug by her side. It was just six days shy of their Golden Wedding Anniversary. Doug took the loss of Sarah greatly as they had been soul mates for over 50 years and he sadly became a bit of a recluse to his friends in Chigwell mainly because he was a very proud man and never wanted to be beholden to anyone. If anyone phoned him to invite him out, which often occurred, he would always have a reason not to go.

■ Doug on his 96th birthday







Doug continued to visit Australia each year for an extended Christmas holiday to visit both Guy and the family, and since 2006, Clive and his family and eventually Doug settled in Australia on 10th June 2013. Unfortunately, Doug didn't make a large circle of friends whilst he lived in Australia and again this was down to him not wanting to be beholden to anyone. When he did go out with friends or family he always enjoyed their company whilst having a meal and a glass of wine and always proved to be an engaging and articulated storyteller.

Doug was a true gentleman. He would always ask others if they wanted anything before concerning himself with his own needs and would always stand up when a lady entered the room. Even towards the end when he was in his aged care facility he would still stand up for fellow female aged care patients and ask if they needed assistance in getting to a chair. All of the messages of condolence the family has received comment on Doug being "A Real Gentleman" or "his complete selflessness and outstanding kindness".

## Doreen Dew *by Pat Ward (1952-1967)*

With the unexpected passing of Doreen just short of her 94th birthday, the OC's Wednesday Lunch club recently lost one of its longest supporters. She was regarded by all of us as an 'Honorary Old Chigwellian'!

On the 7th August Doreen joined us for our 'Away Day' lunch at the Punch Bowl

restaurant in High Easter and she was in fine form, impeccably dressed as ever, with no sign of her impending illness that took her less than two weeks later. Not only was Doreen well known to the members of the Wednesday Lunch Club but she was twice married to OCs and had two sons, who also went to Chigwell, David (1958-1967) and Ricky (1961-1968).

Doreen was born in South Woodford and after Prep School she went to Woodford County High School. Despite being evacuated for a time, because of the war, she passed her Matriculation exams before going to Pitmans College in London for a six-month course in shorthand and typing. Doreen then volunteered for the WRNS and served as a Signals Watchkeeper during the Normandy landings and also in an MTB station in Gosport. Her training in the Navy never left her and no matter what the occasion she was always immaculately dressed. After the war Doreen met her first OC husband Don Allen and they had two sons David and Ricky in 1950 and 1952 respectively. Sadly, due to his suffering as a POW for over three years in WW2, Don died in 1967 at the young age of 46.

Left as a widow with two teenage sons, the family

business had to be sold but Doreen joined the purchasing company as Financial Director and Company Secretary. Sadly, ill health struck and she had to leave the company. After a refresher course at Pitmans and at the age of 54, Doreen landed a new job with a large West End firm of Electrical Contractors where she worked for several years before meeting Doug Dew OC after his wife died. They married at Chigwell School in 1990 and spent many happy years together.

Doreen was an accomplished businesswoman and a great communicator who nurtured great loyalty and friendships with all those she worked with. Those talents extended to her family life and the strong bonds that she created in those close to her are an example to us all.

One of the letters received after Doreen passed away said that she was 'a tremendous role model for any smart, intelligent professional female competing with dignity alongside men'. Another letter said 'a wonderful lady who touched the lives of so many. Caring, interested, charismatic, fun, positive, great company and extremely supportive. An inspiration to us all'.

It doesn't get any better than that and it was an honour to have known her.

## Dr Philip Draper (1947-1954)

*by his sister, Elizabeth Bradley*



Philip enjoyed carpentry and made all his own furniture and his own marmalade which he liked giving to visitors to the flat. He did much gardening around the flats where he lived which the residents appreciated. He was throughout his life a caring person who helped others in his profession to fulfil their potential. Many of his PhD students have testified to this. He also encouraged his younger brother Nicholas and myself, and his niece Harriet, and supported us in our career moves.

We are delighted that Philip was able to meet his great nephew. He was known for his dry sense of humour and was modest about his achievements. He liked nothing better than a meal with friends (he was an excellent cook) or going to the National Theatre. Philip was a loyal friend and kept up friendships all his life. A life-long interest in geology led him to do a geology degree (BSc Hons) at the Open University which he gained in 2015. His last three years were beset by hip problems and then a diagnosis of cancer all of which he approached philosophically. Having medical knowledge helped him cope but created lengthy discussions with his doctors.

We will all miss him greatly.

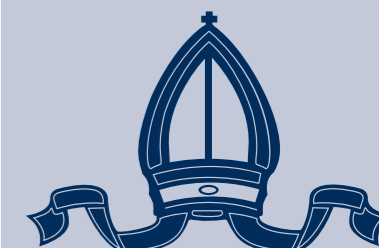
Philip was born and brought up in Woodford Green. The eldest of three children. He went first to the Red School and then on to Chigwell with a Harsnetts Scholarship. At both schools he took a keen interest in drama and music. Philip was also a member of the OTC. From an early age he was keen on cycling and often cycled in place of traditional sports. He was to be seen poring over ordnance survey maps to find a shorter route for cross country runs.

He was a scientist at heart and to pass his A Levels he had to go off to Bancroft's School for much of the course. Chigwell was strictly 'Classics' in those days. After School he went to do his National Service in the Royal Navy and spent his time on a research ship in the Persian Gulf. His nickname was the 'gannet' because he ate so much. Then on to Magdalen College, Oxford to read Biochemistry, followed by a PhD.

After Oxford he spent two years at University College, London and in 1965 joined the Medical Research Council

in Mill Hill where he remained until he retired. He worked on developing a vaccine for leprosy which is now being trialled around the world. When all UK funding was removed for tropical diseases his funding was taken over by the WHO. He was by this time a microbiologist rather than a biochemist. Latterly he changed to work on tuberculosis which is related to leprosy and is becoming resistant to antibiotics. In his work he travelled widely across the world and as a serious mountaineer he often took the opportunity to visit new mountain ranges. He had an encyclopaedic knowledge of mountain flora and each Christmas card he sent had a small picture of a rare alpine flower.

On one occasion returning from Ethiopia his plane was hijacked, but being Philip he took it all calmly; he was given whisky by one embassy, a book by another, food by another and quietly sat on the sand awaiting rescue. This was all relayed to my mother by the British Consul.







# KEEP IN TOUCH WITH CHIGWELL



To ensure we can benefit you and keep our OC community growing stronger and stronger, we rely on having up-to-date information from OCs. We ask that whenever your details change – whether a change of name, address, email, phone number or a change to your career or role – that you let us know.

You can complete the form here or on the website [www.chigwell-school.org](http://www.chigwell-school.org)

## UPDATE YOUR DETAILS

Surname:	Forename:
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Your years at Chigwell:	Current profession:
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Address:	

If you know of an OC who would like to get back in touch please encourage them to do so by completing the form or contacting the Development Office [development@chigwell-school.org](mailto:development@chigwell-school.org) or **020 8501 5748**

## Weddings at Chigwell School

When not in use during term-time, the School is proud to share the excellent facilities and private rooms with Old Chigwellians and the community.

Set in the heart of Chigwell Village, only seven miles from central London and close to Epping and Hainault Forests, the School enjoys its own beautiful grounds of nearly 100 acres and offers a private, unique and historical venue, which can be tailored to specific individual requirements for celebrating important events.

**Dining Hall** – The Dining Hall is a perfect venue for a wedding reception and can cater for sit-down luncheons for up to 150 guests. The School in-house caterers offer bespoke menus and its highly experienced staff will discuss your requirements and advise on options for your special day. The Chapel Quad provides an attractive setting for a drinks reception and a beautiful backdrop for photographs. The Swallow Room is also available for hire.

**New Hall** – If you prefer a buffet luncheon, then perhaps New Hall may be a preferable alternative – a stunning wood panelled hall with a stage area for your band or DJ, again with a stunning vista over the School playing fields.

**The Old Chigwellians' Club** – The Old Chigwellians' Club boasts magnificent private grounds and a fully licenced bar which is ideal for a variety of events and available for hire.

For further information please direct all enquiries to Mrs Tina Page.

**Tel 020 8501 5711 Email [tpage@chigwell-school.org](mailto:tpage@chigwell-school.org)**



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We have availability for corporate sports days on the following dates in 2020:

- 23rd to 31st May
- 13th to 18th July
- 24th to 29th August

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For details please contact the Operations Manager, Mrs Tina Page. **Tel 020 8501 5711, Email [tpage@chigwell-school.org](mailto:tpage@chigwell-school.org)**





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The School's mission remains as true today as it did for Samuel Harsnett nearly 400 years ago. We need to support those children who possess talent, ability and dedication, but who lack the financial means to benefit from the educational experience Chigwell School offers.

**For more information,  
contact Gill Punt in the Development Office  
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