

The John Carpenter Club • City of London School Alumni Association

# GAZETTE

Issue 317 • Autumn 2022



**Queen Elizabeth II**  
**1926 - 2022**



The John  
Carpenter  
Club

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CLS 1967-74, President JCC 2011-2012

# From the President

## Ensuring the JCC remains relevant to all Old Citizens



When I was interviewed for the CLS website back in June school days seemed a very long time ago; they were, nearly fifty years! However, since then I have given much thought to those five years and, whilst there are some bits that it is probably best to draw a veil over, the vast majority of my memories are positive.

But now it is payback time and an opportunity to offer something in return, starting with the great privilege of writing the foreword in this edition of the Gazette. Sadly, when I was writing this piece we were also marking the passing of HM Queen Elizabeth II and many, including the Chapel Royal choristers, were involved in the preparations for her funeral. I am sure that a number of Old Citizens will have fond

memories of Her Majesty; for me it was hosting her onboard HMS INVINCIBLE, the Fleet Flagship for the 2005 Trafalgar 200 Fleet Review at Spithead when, despite everything going on, she still found time to talk to my sailors and listen to their experiences.

Last year my predecessor, Russell Jones, wrote about the challenges that we had faced over the previous 18 months and

the importance of ensuring that the John Carpenter Club was relevant to all Old Citizens, whatever age and however long ago that they left CLS.

Whilst some of those challenges may have passed, as we settle into the 'new norm' the need to remain relevant, both in what we do and how we deliver it, is still very important. To that end, in my year I intend to focus on just that, drawing and building on Russell's hard work.

However, before exploring this in more detail I would like to offer my sincere thanks to Russell for all that he achieved, planned and unplanned, during his presidency and in particular for the time and commitment that he made to delivering the role. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank my colleagues on the General Committee for their contribution, across a breadth of activity in support of the JCC. In both cases I am already benefitting from their respective counsel.

Turning now to my presidency. Over the last couple of years much progress has been made in strengthening relations between the JCC and the School, reflecting a common purpose in what we seek to offer, both for the boys at CLS and those who have left. Specifically, I believe that we are seeking to achieve three things:

- Provide, principally through the provision of bursaries, the opportunity for boys who would not otherwise be able to attend CLS, to become pupils at the School.
- Work with the School to help them offer the pupils the widest possible education.
- Through a programme of mentoring and work-related engagement, help young Old Citizens negotiate their early years after School.

All of which is delivered through our Strategic Plan and builds on the activities that Russell described last year. Taking each in turn:

### Bursaries

I am very pleased to announce that we have continued with the policy of funding Asquith Bursaries and this year have made provision for half bursaries for two boys starting in the Sixth Form this September. Subject to funding we very much hope to continue to do this in future years.

**"... strengthening relations between the JCC and the School, reflecting a common purpose in what we seek to offer, both for the boys at CLS and those who have left"**

### DATA PROTECTION

Your data is held by the City of London School and will only be used for School or John Carpenter Club purposes. Please refer to the School's Privacy Policy, available on the School website, for more information. If you would like to update your details or be removed from the database, please contact the Alumni Engagement Manager, [alumni@cityoflondonschool.org.uk](mailto:alumni@cityoflondonschool.org.uk).



cont. on page 4...



cont. from page 3...

### Contributing to pupils' education

Neil Edwards, as Chair of the Sports Committee, continues to work hard to both support Old Citizen sport and build links with the School. The success of the inaugural Sports Awards Dinner, held at the School at the end of March, is testament to the progress that he has made.

### Support for iGEM

Last year we supported the School's iGEM (International synthetic biology competition) in their development of a rapid screening tool for pre-eclampsia and this summer we agreed to support the 2022 team, who are researching means of detecting the spread of TB. In both cases the quality and level of research is what you would normally expect from post graduates and has much potential to assist in addressing the UN Sustainable Development Goal of Good Health and Wellbeing.

### After school

In partnership with CLS's Alumni Engagement Team, we are piloting an internship scheme, aimed at providing work experience and mentoring for young Old Citizens. The scheme is very much the brainchild of Paul Marmor, and more details can be found on page 5 of the Gazette.

### Awards Scheme

Anthony Gee and his small subcommittee continue their work in developing the Awards scheme that Russell spoke about last year and we are on track to present the first set of JCC prizes in the autumn of 2023.

These are just the headlines, there is much more going on, some of which is covered in this Gazette, whilst the details of other activities are available on our recently revamped JCC website, for which huge thanks must go to Vagish Vela.

Why are we doing all this? I, like I suspect many of you, probably did not realise at the time but our years at CLS greatly influenced who we are, our



Outgoing JCC President, Russell Jones, welcomes Neil Morrisetti as this year's President

breadth of understanding, confidence, and formal education. I would suggest that this is something that future generations should also benefit from and if we, as Old Citizens, can contribute, either financially or through our time and expertise, I would strongly encourage it, and will work this year to help facilitate it.

**"Our years at CLS greatly influenced who we are, our breadth of understanding, confidence ..."**

Which brings me to my second priority, to ensure that the way we operate continues to be relevant to the needs of all Old Citizens and makes maximum use of the resources that we have available. I have already spoken about the work Vagish has led in improving the JCC's social media presence; now we need to apply the same focus to be certain that our business practices are fit for purpose.

One theme that is constant is our wish

to be able to support Old Citizens who may find themselves in financial need. The JCC is well-positioned to be able to do this and I would ask that anybody who is aware of a member of the club who is in such a position to contact Mark Stockton, our Almoner.

During my travels around the world, in the Royal Navy and with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, I have learnt that CLS has a global reputation for academic excellence,

and much more. Over the next year I very much look forward to engaging with both those who have helped build that reputation and those who are today's custodians, staff and pupils alike. Your support, as members of the JCC (especially younger members), in all that we set out to achieve will be much appreciated; thank you.

**Neil Morrisetti  
JCC President 2022- 2023**

## JCC calls for host firms to provide work shadowing for younger alumni

The JCC, in partnership with CLS's Alumni Engagement Team, is piloting an internship scheme, aimed at providing work experience opportunities for younger alumni. More than ten Old Citizens have already signed up for the pilot offering work shadowing in sectors as diverse as IT, private equity and the armed forces, either in person or virtually.

Neil Morisetti (Class of 1975), JCC President said: "The scheme is aimed at boys in their late teens to mid-20s, who have left the School or university relatively recently and are looking for experience in the work place to gain insights into the professions, industry and the workplace in general, to enhance their employability and better consider life and career choices."

Paul Marmor (Class of 1983), the Old Citizen and JCC Committee Member coordinating the scheme, explained: "We recognise that today, more than ever, there's a Catch 22 situation when it comes to getting a job where you need experience - to gain the latter you first need work experience! So, we want to try and assist by facilitating internships which initially means teasing out and identifying employers who are willing to open up their doors whether for a few days, a week or so, or even longer. We are looking at both in person and virtual placements."

Kate Wallace, Development and Alumni Engagement Manager at City of London School added, "We are delighted that more Old Citizens are coming forward to support one another in taking the next steps in their career. If you think you can help then we're keen to hear from you, whatever your industry, be it the creative sector, engineering, media, communications and public relations, finance, IT, arts and design, science and the environment, education, HR, marketing and events planning, economics and policy. In general, opportunities have been unpaid work shadowing experience, but if you want to pay interns to carry out assignments, then that is super!"

Neil Morisetti added: "If you feel you are not able to offer a placement, perhaps because you are retired or work alone, but feel that you can provide some insights and share your knowledge as a mentor, then we would also be very interested

in hearing from you and adding you to our developing bank of expertise. I am a case in point, having had a career in the Royal Navy. I am very happy to provide some thoughts on this or the wider security world. My predecessor as President, Russell Jones (Class of 1977), who was Chief Economist at several global banks and asset managers is already mentoring a number of young alumni."

The aim of the scheme, said Kate Wallace, is to "Enable recent alumni to gain insights into the professions, industry and the workplace generally; enhance their employability, enhance their

CVs, to make them appear more rounded as individuals; better consider life and career choices; seek guidance; and expand their professional networking base.

"The host will provide experience which could include giving the alumnus opportunities to attend meetings as an observer, participate in client-facing activities, and experience a range of activities appropriate to the particular workplace (whether it be attending on surveys, Court hearings, audits, dress rehearsals, project-management) and ideally a reference letter indicating the range of skills demonstrated and activities experienced. Guidance notes are available.

"It is inappropriate for a host to ask an alumnus to carry out actual work from which the host could derive a tangible benefit but, nevertheless, if a host is

willing to provide paid work by way of a formal internship, then the host is welcome to do so, and paid work is also encouraged. What is to be avoided is a situation in which the alumnus is effectively working gratis, which goes against the spirit of what we are trying to organise.

"If your place of work is already offering internships or work experience of any kind, then please feel free to share this with us."

**This scheme is being organised by the Development and Alumni Engagement Team, in partnership with the John Carpenter Club and we would love to hear from you especially if you would like more information on volunteering as a host. Please contact Kate Wallace on [kate.wallace@cityoflondon.school.org.uk](mailto:kate.wallace@cityoflondon.school.org.uk) or 020 3680 6314 and/or Paul Marmor of the JCC on [paul.marmor@sherrards.com](mailto:paul.marmor@sherrards.com) marking your email 'CLS Internship Scheme'.**





## New JCC website is launched



The JCC's new website went live this summer, bringing Old Citizens the latest news, events and sporting updates from their alumni association.

Old Citizen, Vagish Vela (Class of 2007), a Software Architect and Entrepreneur, developed the new site with his team in Ohio, USA.

He explained the principal improvements he has brought to the JCC's virtual presence: "In addition to updating the overall look and feel of the site, our aim is to make it compatible with any digital device, be it a PC, tablet or mobile phone, so that the visitor's user experience is good whichever device they are using.

"In terms of functionality we have tried to keep navigation simple and capture all the latest headlines on the home page, making this information easy to find.

"There is still work to be done in some sections of the site, such as sports, where there is a large amount of historical data to capture and categorise. The Rogues Gallery is

another work in progress.

"Going forward, we hope to improve traffic to the site through search engine optimisation to enable the website to become a valuable marketing tool for the JCC, making more OCs

aware of the association and how it can enrich their lives and those of other alumni, as well as providing a valuable resource for the School."

Neil Morisetti, JCC President, said: "We are delighted with the new website and on behalf of the JCC Committee would like to thank Vagish and his team for all the hard work they have put in to creating this site."

**If you would like to ask any questions about the site or make a comment, please email: [webmaster@jcc.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@jcc.org.uk)**

## AGM & Dinner 16 November 2022

Old Citizens are invited to register for this year's JCC AGM and Dinner at the School on Wednesday 16 November. The AGM takes place at 6pm, followed by a drinks reception at 7pm and dinner at 7.30pm (Dress: Lounge Suit). To register and buy a ticket, scan the barcode below or visit the CLS website/Old Citizens/Alumni Events. Any questions, please email Kate Wallace on [kate.wallace@cityoflondonschool.org.uk](mailto:kate.wallace@cityoflondonschool.org.uk).



## 1917 Society Summer Social

On a warm summer evening in late July, members from The 1917 Society met at a Thames-side pub for a few summer beverages and a convivial catch up. Most of the attendees were (relatively) recent leavers of the School but nevertheless there was a decent range of ages. The event resurrected the summer drinks tradition of the Society which, whilst once a fixture in the Society's calendar in decades past, had fallen out of fashion recently. Discussions turned to the nature of the Society, its constitution and imminent plans to grow the membership with engaged Old Citizens - watch this space!

## A look back from the CLS Alumni Team

The Autumn Term saw the return of in person events at CLS and we kicked off with The Big Catch Up on 15 October 2021. More than 150 Old Citizens who had (or had missed) a reunion in 2020 or 2021 gathered to celebrate 5, 10, 15, 20, 25 and 30 years since leaving school. We were delighted to be joined by a number of former staff including Mr Keates and Mr Knight.

For those who left CLS before 1980, there was a special gathering of more than 100 Old Citizens in the Great Hall in November for a coffee morning reunion. Serenaded by Hugo (Senior Sixth Form) with music from the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s and speeches from our Head, Alan Bird and JCC President, Russell Jones (Class of 1977), a variety of pupils also joined the attendees during their morning break, to share insights on life at CLS today and in years gone by. Those unable to attend in person joined a virtual version of the coffee morning, with a further 60 alumni logging on from around the world.

Our termly networking events also continued in person with sessions on 'The Future of Property', 'Healthcare laid bare' and 'Investors & Entrepreneurs' taking place across the school year. Panellists including Bradley Goldenberg (Class of 1988), Professor Paul Klenerman (Class of 1981) and Tim Jackson (Class of 1982) shared their expertise with over 200 alumni, parents and sixth form pupils. Follow us on LinkedIn to find out more about networking events planned throughout 2022/23.

Our first sports reunion and awards ceremony took place in March and recognised sixth form pupils who had excelled in their chosen sport at CLS. They were joined by a number of alumni and the evening was ably hosted by Mr Cornwell and Neil Edwards (Class of 1982). We are grateful to the John Carpenter Club for their financial assistance in supporting this event and look forward to the next one in 2023.

The school year ended with a flurry of class reunions for those with a leaving year ending in a '2' or a '7'. Attendees got to enjoy the sunny weather on the school balcony and meet up with old friends and much-loved teachers. Huge thanks to our reunion ambassadors Neil Edwards and Ronel Lehmann (Class of 1982), Dov Katz

(Class of 1992) and Neel Patel and Paul Stein (Class of 1997) for helping gather such a wonderful bunch of alumni back at School.

If you would like to be an ambassador for your year group, email Kate Wallace at [kate.wallace@cityoflondonschool.org.uk](mailto:kate.wallace@cityoflondonschool.org.uk).

Old Citizens supported Higher Education forums, subject forums and careers information sessions to help Junior Sixth Form pupils and we are so pleased, proud and thankful for the many alumni who have volunteered their time and expertise this year. You can read the full list in our latest impact report at [www.cityoflondonschool.org.uk/support-us](http://www.cityoflondonschool.org.uk/support-us).

Alumni interviews were varied and wide ranging this year including writer Ivor Baddiel (Class of 1980), musician John Altman (Class of 1967) and bio-fuel pioneer William Tebbit (Class of 1983).

You can read these and many more alumni interviews at [www.cityoflondonschool.org.uk/old-citizens](http://www.cityoflondonschool.org.uk/old-citizens). Scan in the barcode on page 17 for the link.

Upcoming reunion dates are now in the diary, and you can expect professional networking events news later this term.

Booking links can be found by scanning the events calendar QR code below. A list of our Autumn events are shown on page 8, along with a selection of photos from the many reunions and events this school year. For a full gallery of photos from each event visit the CLS website/Old Citizens/Alumni Events/Alumni Events & Photos.

You can read an article on a very special reunion of five of the choristers who sang at Princess Margaret's wedding 62 years ago

### Message from Kate Wallace, CLS Alumni Engagement Manager

I hope you have all had a happy summer!

The alumni team is now busy organising a very special afternoon tea on 24 November 2022 for Old Citizens who attended City of London School in the Old School building on Victoria Embankment (now the JP Morgan building). If you haven't booked yet and would like to attend, please email me at [alumni@cityoflondonschool.org.uk](mailto:alumni@cityoflondonschool.org.uk) or call 020 3680 6314. Alternatively, scan in the barcode in the advert on page 9, for a link to the booking page on the CLS website.

We are so looking forward to seeing as many OCs as possible over the next school year. Do keep in touch: we're always happy to welcome you back to City of London School!

Best wishes,  
Kate

on page 9.

Finally, we are so grateful to the many Old Citizens who donated to the School's Bursary Appeal last year. Together, we raised over £1.1 million for transformative bursaries and helped to ensure that a CLS education is open to anyone who would thrive at our school. It was wonderful to see so many of you at our Supporter Reception in March, including those alumni who have included CLS in their will. Thank you for being a part of our donor community.

**Kate Wallace and the Alumni Team,  
City of London School**





# Alumni Reunions and Events



## Autumn Term Dates for Your Diary

We are also delighted to announce events for the Autumn Term. Subscribers to our termly e-news would have had an invitation in early July but do feel free to email the Alumni Manager at [kate.wallace@cityoflondon.school.org.uk](mailto:kate.wallace@cityoflondon.school.org.uk) to find out more.

### 16 November 2022 - New York City Reunion

An alumni reception for Old Citizens living in the United States

### 16 November 2022 - JCC AGM & Dinner

The JCC's annual gathering.

### 24 November 2022 - The Old School Reunion

An afternoon tea at the JP Morgan building for everyone who attended the 'Old School' regardless of leaving year. Special attention on the day will be given to those celebrating a milestone reunion year and left CLS in 1952, 1962 and 1972 (1982 had their reunion in July 2022!)

## A Royal Wedding Reunion

Earlier this year, 62 years after they sang at the wedding of Princess Margaret, five Chapel Royal choristers enjoyed a reunion at Westminster Abbey

The former choristers, Philip Brown (Class of 1967), Christopher Duffell (Class of 1964), Richard Onslow, (Class of 1961) Peter Onslow (Class of 1968), John Murray (Class of 1963) and Henry Watson (Class of 1966) represented by his widow Jana Markham-Watson met at Westminster Abbey, and after wandering around the scene of the action 62 years before, climbed up to the Jubilee Galleries, with its view of the interior from far above. At 3.15 p.m. tea was served in the Cellarium Terrace, where copies of a recording of the wedding were available, plus an exhibition of mementos of the wedding kept by choirboys, and the playing of a horn concerto written for Lance Baker.

John Murray said: "We enjoyed a fascinating and varied visit to the imposing and interesting surroundings, plus the bonus of meeting and catching up with so many old friends, as well as making some new ones among the choristers from Westminster Abbey and St George's Chapel, Windsor.



"We all attended Evensong at 5 pm, most beautifully sung unaccompanied by today's Abbey choir, and went on to a Reception in the Jerusalem Chamber hosted by the Dean and by James O'Donnell, present Organist and Master of the Choristers."

Photos - Top: five out of the original 10 boys made it to the reunion. In the choir stalls, they are, left to right: John Murray (1954-1960), Christopher Duffell (1958-1961), Richard Onslow (1956-1961), Peter Onslow (1959-1963) and Philip Brown (1958-1964). Dates refer to their years as choristers of the Chapel Royal.

Middle: April 1960, all the Chapel Royal contingent that sang at the wedding, crossing the Mall.

Bottom: the choristers and their partners.



Old School Reunion  
JP Morgan  
24.11.22 @ 2.30pm  
Scan QR code to book





## James Chance (Class of 2007), Technology Entrepreneur

**C**ity of London School's Alumni Engagement Team's 'My CLS Six' is a collection of career journeys from Old Citizens answering six key questions. Here, they talk to James Chance, Technology Entrepreneur, yourself.online.

### How did CLS get you ready for the world of work?

As someone who wasn't totally sure what they wanted to do, I found the wealth of interesting speakers and talks really helped but looking back on it, the Young Enterprise scheme really stood out. During this a group of us got together and formed a company making items in the school's Design Technology department. We made a few thousand pounds in revenue, but sadly lost the inter-school competition that was part of it at the first round. My friends and I still reminisce about this today...I think we might be sore losers still!

### What was your first job?

I started my own business at the age of 13, delivering magazines and marketing materials to apartments and offices in the square mile after school. I grew the company by undercutting Royal Mail on price and hiring other CLS boys to help me out. There were long days, but it taught me some amazing business lessons. From the effect of economies of scale, to the importance of motivating and looking after your team.

After leaving CLS, I decided to join Accenture's gap-year programme which gave me eight months of management consulting experience before going to university. I ended up coming back after I graduated and staying with them for three and a half years. The experience gave me a good grounding in how different companies operate, the mechanics of the corporate world and where my strengths lie.

### Your biggest professional achievement?

I've just completed the sale of my current business, yourself.online, after building it since early 2018. Our software helps individuals to protect their reputation through scanning and cleaning up their social media accounts. My co-founder and I began working on the idea after noticing how old posts and

photos were stopping people from getting jobs, new business opportunities and even dates. We were approached by one of our partners to acquire the business earlier in the year and were excited by the combined potential of the two companies.

### Your most challenging professional moment?

During the start-up phase of yourself.online, I found raising funds from investors one of the most challenging moments of my career. It was incredibly busy, with a lot of meetings, but also highly pressured as you always knew that if you didn't close the funds you couldn't keep on building the company. Although it was challenging, I learned a lot about myself and what investors look for in early stage start-ups.

### What inspires and motivates you at work?

I've always been someone who spotted opportunities and problems to solve and this keeps me inspired and excited, but on a

day to day basis helping my colleagues and team to grow is what keeps me motivated.

### One piece of advice for pupils and other Old Citizens about getting into your profession?

When I was at CLS I had the perception that the career you started would be the career you'd be doing forever, when in reality your career is flexible and the working world has rapidly changed. With this in mind, having an understanding of technology and AI (even if you're not writing code) and building transferable and recognisable skills is vital.



## Marcus Congdon Smith (Class of 1998), Easyjet Pilot

Interview by the CLS Alumni Engagement Team.

### How did CLS get you ready for the world of work?

There wasn't much career guidance available at the time on how to become a pilot, so I studied an eclectic selection of subjects, particularly at A-Level and again at University. I believe CLS provided the tools to quickly understand the fundamentals in any subject, and today I need to have a good grasp in a broad range of disciplines including Physics, Meteorology, Law, and even Physiology and Psychology.

Aviation-wise, I was heavily involved in the RAF section of the CCF for five years. That allowed me to do my first flight, aged 13, and reinforced that a life in the sky was one that I wanted to pursue. It also helped develop skills such as leadership, teamwork, and self-reliance. School-life in general helped grow my belief and confidence in myself.

### What was your first job?

My first paid job was sorting medical files at a doctor's surgery during the summer between Junior and Senior Sixth.

My first adult job was working for my mother's IT company for a couple of years after University to try and save some money to pay for flying training.

And my first professional job is where I have been for the last 14 years, at EasyJet initially as a First Officer (co-pilot) and now as a Captain.

### Your biggest professional achievement?

It has to be what I'm doing now. Being in command of an airliner with up to 250 passengers and crew, ultimately responsible for their safety and well-being. Another standout achievement was the first time I took control of an (empty) passenger jet and did a series of take-offs and landings.

### Your most challenging professional moment?

It is a cliché, but every day is different at work and provides some sort of challenge to overcome. Thankfully, modern aircraft are

highly reliable, and their crews are well trained, so I have no horror stories of flying around on one engine, with a wing on fire, running out of fuel (except in our twice yearly simulator checks). Passengers tend to cause the vast majority of problems. I have had to offload disruptive ones or have them arrested, and divert for heart attacks, fits and even a swollen eyeball.

### What inspires and motivates you at work?

The views out of the 'office' window are a definite bonus, breaking through cloud into the bright sunshine or making an approach into a picturesque location do remind me why I got into the profession in the first place. An old adage in aviation is that "any landing you can walk away from, is a good one" and I would add to that "any flight from which a passenger gets off smiling, is a good one". For the former, while I have had my share of firm touchdowns, it is always satisfying to land after a challenging approach be that due to terrain, airport or extreme weather. And the latter means that we, as a crew, have done a good job.

### One piece of advice for pupils and other Old Citizens about getting into your profession?

From an aviation perspective, have a trial flight in a small aircraft before you commit to expensive flight training and make sure you actually do enjoy flying. This also helps when it comes to an interview as it shows there is some passion behind your reasoning, and you are not just lured by the (non-existent) jet-set lifestyle.

From a personal perspective, life is not plain sailing. You will take knocks and set-backs along the way (definitely so in aviation) but being able to pick yourself up and show resilience is seen as a massive plus point.





## Stephen Kelly hosts Ukrainian couple

This Summer Old Citizen Stephen Kelly (Class of 1984) welcomed Yuri and Ira from Kyiv into his home in Potters Bar as refugees from the war in Ukraine.

“When the Government announced the Homes for Ukraine Scheme, I thought it was a great idea. I’ve got plenty of space here,” said Stephen. “I registered for the scheme and then it was a bit disappointing because it became clear they weren’t going to match you up with anybody. I was mentioning this to a client and they said if I was really serious about hosting someone, they were at university with this guy who’s Ukrainian and he’s helping hook up Ukrainian people with English families to host them. So, they put me in touch, and it went from there really. It was quite a quick process after that.”

Before arriving in the UK in June, Yuri and Ira stayed with acquaintances in Belgium while Yuri fulfilled a commitment to make humanitarian trips with essential goods to the Ukrainian border. Stephen was in touch with them about

practical matters such as setting up bank accounts, mobile phones and registering with a doctor.

In the two months the couple stayed with Stephen, he introduced Ira to a Ukrainian lady he knew living locally who

helped widen her social circle. He also assisted Yuri in finding permanent employment as a fitter with a bedroom furniture company.

“In Ukraine Yuri ran his own bespoke fitted furniture company,” said Stephen, “so this job was a good match for his skills and experience.”

Originally, Ira and Yuri had planned to stay longer with Stephen until they’d found a home of their own. However, due to his son’s serious allergy to cats, Stephen could not accommodate their pet cat and dog, which they’d

temporarily placed with a friend in Brighton. So they contacted the local council who quickly re-homed Ira, Yuri and their pets with a family in Harpenden.



## James Denning volunteers in Poland

Old Citizen James Denning (Class of 1994) spent four weeks volunteering in the border region of Poland with Ukraine, around the town of Przemysl. Venturing out there for what was meant to be a ten day break, it soon transformed into several weeks getting involved with charities including LoveBristol, Edinburgh Direct Aid and UAid Direct.

“The atmosphere on the ground is hard to describe,” he said. “Several months in to the effort, local, national and international politics manifested themselves in various ways that either helped or thwarted efforts, but the spirit of charity and assistance thrived with a truly international effort involving volunteers of all faiths (or none) and backgrounds.

“Activities centred initially around the old Tesco supermarket that had become a refugee reception centre, where hundreds stayed for up to a few nights until they could secure more comfortable accommodation to either await processing to get to their onward destination or to go straight there. The organisation there was somewhat ramshackle, often on a ‘best effort’ basis but all the important jobs were covered - including the task of disinfecting several thousand pieces of bedding every single day, feeding the refugees (thanks to World Kitchen, a truly awesome organisation) - with medical services available and entertainment for the children. With a hire car and my vetting complete I was able to provide lifts to

## John Altman publishes autobiography

Old Citizen and multi award-winning musician, John Altman (Class of 1967) has written his autobiography, ‘Hidden Man: My Many Musical Lives’, which was published this year by Equinox Books. Described by one industry pundit as ‘The jolliest book of rock’n’roll tales in a long time’, it gives a vivid account of John’s fifty years in the popular music arena.

A prolific film composer, conductor and music arranger, as well as an accomplished saxophonist, John created the music for more than 4,000 commercials worldwide, fifty film scores and several television series including ‘Miss Marple’. Among his best-known scores are the ship sinking sequence in ‘Titanic’, James Bond’s tank chase through St. Petersburg in ‘Goldeneye’ and ‘Always Look on the Bright Side of Life’ from Monty Python’s ‘Life of Brian’. He has also worked on hit records with the likes of George Michael, Diana Ross, Alison Moyet and Tina Turner.

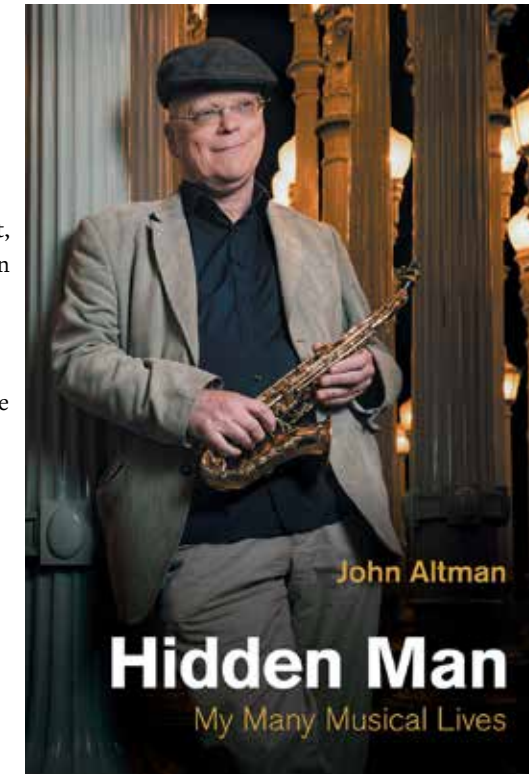
Writing about his time at CLS, he says, ‘My schooldays at City of London were generally very happy. Academically I found my metier in the study of English Literature, particularly the novels of the great Victorian writers – Dickens, Thackeray, Trollope and

George Eliot. I had decided by the sixth form that my future lay in studying and writing about the English, American and European novel. I had also developed a lifelong obsession with classic

cinema that led me to run the school (and subsequently the university) film society, little envisaging that I would eventually become an active participant in the worldwide film industry.’

He joined the School’s Jazz Society at age 11 and spent his Wednesday afternoons (a medical note excusing him from playing rugby) in Dobell’s Jazz Record Shop in Charing Cross Road, increasing his record collection.

John’s other passion was cricket. His love of the game came to a head one day when he made the School’s 2nd team. ‘On this particular day in 1967, our band had secured a gig that night... As I stood in the gloomy drizzle of the outfield [at Grove Park] watching the other team’s batsmen post a very hefty score, I vowed this would be my first and last game of cricket for the school.’ He didn’t play another game of competitive cricket for 22 years.



**Read the Gazette’s interview with John in the Autumn 2019 issue. His book ‘Hidden Man: My Many Musical Lives’ is available at most good bookstores.**

refugees to and from their temporary accommodation, and do the shopping, which included ice creams for everyone.

“Many of the Ukrainians, mostly women and children, were coping well with the displacement, uncertainty, and limited comforts available in places such as schools turned over to the charities for accommodation, but often, beneath the surface, you could sense traumas past and that they were putting on a brave face for the children.

“Sensing where I might be needed more, I switched to driving a van across the border mainly to L’viv delivering aid to various locations for onward transportation to where it was needed. Ukraine reminded me very much of Poland a few years after the fall of the Iron

Curtain, developing economically but still needing a lot of investment. There were only a few signs of a country at war - some bomb damage around the railway yards in L’viv, which was being repaired already, and the odd hastily constructed checkpoint on main roads, with only key ones manned, but a van carrying aid was waved through. The border however was another matter, with no two crossings in either direction being similar, sometimes taking 30 minutes, often a lot longer with the occasional hiccup (being shouted at once or twice, google translate failed for some reason) but never any major issues. I found I could get the most out of the trips to L’viv by popping to the well-stocked supermarkets after dropping off my initial load and buying food in bulk to add to the

aid - this proved to be quite cost-effective and the recipient charities were especially appreciative of the extra donations. Initially I was self-funded in terms of hire car, accommodation, flights and the fuel for the vans, but to support my extension an appeal on Just Giving showed the generosity of so many people, including some fellow Old Citizens, to whom I am most grateful. Thanks also to Farnham Round Table who made a generous special donation. Overall I raised over £2500. Contributions were made for specific needs, be it ear defenders for a front line soldier, or table football for the children’s enclosure at Tesco – all given based on that most important ingredient in these situations, trust.

“I shall return there, some time soon.”



## Christian Plowman (Class of 1991)



**C**hristian Plowman was a Metropolitan Police officer for 16 years, in detective and undercover roles, including infiltrating Eastern European crime gangs. When he retired, he wrote a book about the experience, ‘Crossing the Line: Losing Your Mind as an Undercover Cop’. Christian now works as a consultant for conservation charities in central Africa, working with local law enforcement to combat the criminal gangs behind wildlife trafficking in countries like the Democratic Republic of Congo, Madagascar and Rwanda. Here he talks to CLS’s Alumni Development and Engagement Team.

### **Is protecting wildlife your primary goal, or is it to target criminals involved in wildlife crime?**

My interest is less in conservation per se and more in the intricacies of organised crime, especially trans-national organised crime. I find the crossover between general criminality and the illegal wildlife trade very interesting.

I find lots of aspects of wildlife trafficking absolutely intriguing when I relate it to my previous experience dealing with drug trafficking. It’s a type of crime that’s not taken as seriously as drugs or guns, so criminal enterprises can profit significantly from it at very low risk. That’s one of the aspects that I think is most important. I try to educate people that, notwithstanding the potential loss of iconic species like elephants and rhinos, there are some bad guys making a lot of money out of this and thumbing their nose at the authorities. So education of law-enforcement agencies is an important part of what I do.

### **The illegal ivory trade is well known to us – what other wildlife crime should we be aware of?**

Maybe pangolin scales. They are incredibly profitable in large amounts and are poached in Africa and Asia – the scales are removed from the animals in a particularly nasty way and then sold in south-east Asia where they are seen to have some medicinal benefit, which is obviously not the case. The pangolin is the most poached and trafficked wild mammal in the world and it’s a huge market. We see big seizures of ivory and pangolin scales within the same shipments.

The ivory trade is still very significant, although frontline evidence shows that a lot of it comes from old ivory that has been corruptly removed from government stockpiles in various countries. So we are not seeing the number of dead elephants that the size of the trade would suggest. But it’s still a significant issue.

Then there’s rhino horn and other very niche species that traffic at great profit. There’s a huge illegal spider trade, particular species of spiders only found in one location worldwide that can be trafficked across the world, often to central Europe, to spider collectors, and they will sell for tens of thousands of pounds per animal.

### **Is the market mainly medicinal?**

There are two trades. The traffickers in the live animal trade – spiders, apes, big cats – are specialists. They will only trade in a particular species. The second type – the groups involved in ivory, rhino, pangolins – are de facto bad guys. They will traffic ivory, drugs, humans, arms. There’s different levels of criminality but the profits are significant in both.

### **What do you enjoy about this work and your previous police work in London? Is it the adrenalin or is it the satisfaction of doing something good?**

It’s a combination of the two. In this job, the moments of adrenalin are few and far between but there are some occasions when it gets quite interesting and exciting. I suppose my satisfaction comes from thinking I’m doing something good.

I feel I can use my skills from police work to help these organisations do their job as well as they can. And it is challenging and stressful and time-consuming – but that’s part of the attraction of it as well. I seem to perform better when I am faced with difficulties.

### **Are there moments when smugglers are caught red-handed after a long investigation? Is there a pay-off moment?**

Disappointingly... not really! I have been involved in many seizures of illegal wildlife... but we try to step away from the enforcement stage for various reasons.

I’m not a big fan of seizures, I’m more a fan of catching the individuals behind the trafficking. That’s a slow process. An organised trafficking network will be sending multiple shipments – if one of those gets seized, it doesn’t matter too much to them. You need to get to the next level.

### **How do police methods vary between your current work and your past career in London?**

Some African countries have sophisticated policing capacity but not the ones I work in. No CCTV, no DNA, no fingerprinting and not many officers with investigative skills.

Also, I’m working in countries that use the French judicial system and that throws up its own challenges. The investigations are led by a judge, so the law enforcement agencies have very little autonomy. Sometimes cases get stalled or dropped. There are often issues with corruption.

It is a massive challenge. Maybe I should change my job! But we are making some progress.

### **Does ‘Line of Duty’ give us a glimpse of what your world was like?**

‘Line of Duty’ is embellished realism. Loads of details are wrong. A small regional police force having a massive anti-corruption department with its own armed officers... is nonsense. And if

only all police buildings were like AC12’s offices, it would be very nice.

In the first episode of the last series the phrase ‘CHIS (Covert Human Intelligence Source) handler’ – a police officer who is a point of contact for an informant – was used and people were in uproar on social media asking what it meant. Well, I used to be a CHIS handler for three years, so I enjoyed all that!

I’ll quite happily watch police shows. I really like the fly-on-the-wall ones, like ‘24 Hours in Police Custody’. They give – of course – a much more realistic viewpoint – except the boring bits are still edited out.

### **At what age did you decide you wanted to become a police officer?**

My mum says I was keen on being a policeman and catching robbers from when I was at primary school. When I was at CLS it wasn’t really in my head. One of the things I considered as a teenager – because I learned Russian – was the intelligence or diplomatic service. I really liked the idea of being a spy, although I didn’t really understand what the security services actually did.

Ultimately, when I was 21 and I had a child and I needed to get a responsible job I joined the police – I didn’t expect to be there for very long but I was there for 16 years.

### **What was your first experience of work?**

I worked from age 14. I didn’t come from a particularly well-off family. I worked at an estate agent’s as an office junior at the weekends and in the holidays. I worked at a hairdresser’s, as a Saturday boy, sweeping up hair. After my ‘A’ Levels I continued to work – Pizza Hut, places like that. I did do work experience when I was at CLS. I went to a translation agency; I wanted to be an interpreter for the UN. I remember being disappointed I didn’t like it as much as I had hoped.

### **How did you come to be at CLS?**

I was at primary school in Tottenham. When I was eight, I was moved up a year and the headmaster suggest I try entrance exams for a couple of independent schools including CLS. I was quite chilled out about the whole thing. I applied through the assisted places scheme and my fees were paid for up to ‘A’ Levels which was pretty cool.

### **Do you remember your first day?**

Very vaguely. My form teacher was Mr Hart. I remember feeling nervous. I remember going on the tube: my mum and dad had made me do some dummy runs in the summer holidays. It was a really formative thing, travelling alone in the city, on the tube, to get to school. That journey to and from school was very important. You picked up a certain level of independence and street savvy even at 11 or 12.

### **Which teachers inspired you?**

Mr Reardon, my German and French teacher and also my form tutor in Sixth Form, was fantastic. Peter Allwright taught me Russian – we were the first class to do Russian at GCSE – and he was brilliant, an absolute legend. Alastair Laidlaw, our French teacher for GCSEs was fantastic. They were two of the best teachers I ever had.

cont. on page 16...



## Climate change action may proceed faster than thought

*While post-COP-26 policy has been slow, the corporate level response may surprise on the upside*

by Old Citizen and JCC Past President, Russell Jones

**It is hard not to conclude that, while at COP-26 most governments committed themselves to targets, the pace of subsequent policy action has been glacial<sup>1</sup>. It may be wrong however to draw a particularly pessimistic conclusion from this.**

### Encouraging Elements

While it is difficult to measure sentiment, it is evident that, en masse, social and political attitudes regarding the importance of nature and reducing greenhouse gas emissions had shifted by the time of COP-26. Equally, there is an increasing perception among significant parts of the corporate sector, that decarbonising can be as much about opportunities for new, more efficient, and better innovations as it is about increased carbon and energy costs.

Moreover, commercial pressure stands to reinforce this view. As progressively more firms realise that ultimately they are going to be obliged, both by policy and by the threat posed by new technologies and processes outcompeting their own, to reduce their emissions, increasingly more of them will try to get out in front.

As they do so, three powerful factors – learning by doing; economies of scale; and combinatorial technologies<sup>2</sup> – will not only increase the competitiveness of the firms that act first; they will also generate a reinforcing macroeconomic virtuous circle of innovation, investment, and falling costs.

### Macroeconomic reinforcement

For example, in 2008, solar power cost between five and ten times as much as coal and gas electricity; and offshore wind power was still prohibitively expensive. Since then, however, the cost of wind has fallen by more than half, while solar PV costs have declined by more than 90%. The cost of lithium-ion batteries has fallen nine-fold. Today, both solar and wind are cost competitive relative to hydrocarbons even when accounting for the need to cover for intermittency.

In time, even the capital costs of clean technologies are likely to outcompete those of fossil fuels. A solar panel has fewer bulky components per unit of energy generated than does a coal plant and, as they become more productive, capex costs will outcompete gas. There are far fewer moving parts in electric vehicles than in an internal combustion-powered vehicle.

Motorists are set to benefit not only from lower running costs of EVs, but lower purchase prices too.

Most observers have long underestimated the scale of deployment in renewables. The International Energy Agency (IEA) is one case in point amongst many. Since 2010, for example, annual investment in solar has grown by a factor of twenty, and for wind by a factor of four. Correspondingly, and like almost everyone else, the IEA underestimated how fast costs would fall. Yet, as it now notes, solar power offers the “cheapest electricity in history”. It also predicts that “renewables will overtake coal to become the largest source of electricity generation worldwide in 2025”.

### Conclusion

None of this is certain. And none of this is to say that policy is unimportant. Indeed, the returns to early policy action to steer

economies in a low carbon direction, and head off investment in high carbon assets that would otherwise likely become devalued and ‘stranded’, stand to be more significant than previously expected.

Rather, the point is that it is possible – if not probable – that the process of reducing carbon emissions will proceed faster than might be inferred from the current slow progress of policy. The clean innovation machine, now that it is switched on and is running, has the potential, largely by itself, to become more innovative and productive than the conventional alternative<sup>3</sup>. If that is so, then there are two basic conclusions:

- For firms: don’t wait.
- For investors: changes in relative prices and thereby firms’ valuations may happen quicker, perhaps markedly so, than many

currently expect.



**Russell Jones (CLS 1972-77) is a partner at Llewellyn Consulting**

<sup>1</sup> A prime concern, not least amongst economists, is that dealing with the ‘externalities’ requires that they be priced – the ‘Polluter pays’ principle – or regulated, or that alternatives be subsidised. And governments are finding it politically extremely difficult to do this.

<sup>2</sup> Combinatorial policies and network effects can be extremely important. Without any one of the technologies in question individually necessarily being new, they may be combined in new or novel ways. The classic example is the iPhone: while all of its technologies were comparatively well known, they were combined in such a way that the resulting new product swept the world. iPhone began a bandwagon effect that revolutionised mobile communications. The more people with smart phones, the more developers created clever apps to work with them, the more people wanted to own a smartphone ... and so on.

<sup>3</sup> The real challenge for policymakers stems not from whether renewables are affordable, but from how to anticipate and manage the disruption and distributional consequences associated with rapid change. Changing perceptions of risk and opportunity will be a key part of overcoming those political economy barriers. As the advantages of the great digital and low-carbon re-wiring of the economy become apparent, the ability to overcome resistance and inertia stands to increase. This constitutes the final, but perhaps most important, self-reinforcing feedback associated with a rapid structural transition to a clean economy.

cont. from page 15...

I did well in my Russian ‘A’ Level and only got a C in French – and the irony is that French is the only foreign language I speak now with any regularity.

### What was special about their teaching?

They had a very evident passion for their subjects. They were very forgiving too. A mistake was not the end of the world, so long as you could communicate. Their focus was on making yourself understood and that helped you learn more and grow into the language. They were very chilled-out teachers. You would never go into one of their classes and think, ‘Oh no I’m not going to enjoy this.’ They created this very laidback atmosphere. Both of them were quite young at the time which was probably a factor.

### Which extra-curricular activities did you enjoy?

I got involved a bit in drama and early on, I was involved in the choir; thinking back, some of the stuff I did was incredible. We sang at St Paul’s Cathedral and some of us were selected for a huge production of a Leonard Bernstein musical, called

‘Mass’, with the Guild Hall School of Music and Drama. Months of rehearsals, then four performances. A proper production. And then Leonard Bernstein turned up on the last day! I didn’t appreciate that at the time. My mum told me he’d written ‘West Side Story’, which I’d never heard of. It all seems a bigger deal to me now than maybe I appreciated at the time. I still have the soundtrack on my Spotify.

At Christmas, we’d go round all the hospitals in central London and sing carols and they’d give us mince pies.

I look back at some of the stuff we did and can’t believe I did it.

### Your Met Police life was a very tough life. Were you always a tough character?

I’m not a particularly tough person. Maybe it comes back to a personality defect: I like to put myself in challenging or uncomfortable situations. Maybe on a certain level, CLS prepared me for that. It was certainly a new, unfamiliar environment for me.

I really enjoyed CLS but there was definitely a sensation that I

had to fit into its way of life and its mix of people.

The plaques, the statues, the busts, the honours boards... it was like nothing I’d been involved with before. It wasn’t like a traditional public school in any way but those early perceptions that you are going into a place that’s grander than you are used to, do stay with you.

### What personal qualities would a 15-year-old need to follow your career path now?

You have to have an understanding of and empathy for other people. That’s by far the most important thing. Whether from personal experience or simply from being open-minded about other people’s situations. Secondly you need to be able to communicate effectively – and to adapt the way you communicate with different people. I think CLS is a good place to hone those skills. Thirdly, common sense – you can learn common sense, even on your commute into CLS. After two years we were all London underground ninjas – if the tube was closed we knew all the alternative routes to get home.

### What impact did CLS have on your life?

CLS gave me a good communication ability. There was a huge mix of people at the school but there was a particular way of behaving and talking to people that made it work for everyone as a community.

I’d be at school playing Eton Fives, then, later, back in Tottenham talking to my mate from primary school who’d just been arrested. Two different worlds. CLS helped me to talk to different people in an appropriate way.

I really believe if I hadn’t gone to CLS I wouldn’t be here now. I only do the job I do now because I can speak French. When I was in the police I worked with European police combatting Eastern European crime – and the only reason I did that was because I spoke Russian – which I only spoke because I went to CLS. I give the School credit for lots of things in my life.





# Jayden wins Erasmus essay prize



CLS sixth former, Jayden, was awarded first place and a prize of £500 in this year's Erasmus Essay Competition. Erasmus is an annual essay competition run by Oxford University among top British Schools, in collaboration with top Scholars who judge the best essay produced in a three-hour exam under timed conditions. A reading list is produced at the end of the Summer Term and pupils undertake independent research in preparation for the exam. The topic this year was 'Science and morality' and Jayden wrote a compelling essay in response to the question 'Are there any Moral Values?' arguing that morality is defined by 'a synthesis of our human nature and our customs'. In arguing so, he placed a particular emphasis on cooperation as fundamental to moral values. His essay can be read on the CLS website/News.

## Sponsored row raises £11k for Papyrus

Before half term, Junior 6th Form pupils and many members of staff, took to rowing machines outside School which they kept going for 24 hours straight in the CLS's annual Sponsored Row. One of our most popular fundraising events of the year, the Sponsored Row

brought a sense of camaraderie and fun to the School day, with pupils and staff taking turns to cheer on and encourage those who took their turn on the rower. The Head, Alan Bird, and the Chair of Governors even took their turn and did a 20-minute stint!

The Sponsored Row was an undeniable success, with the final amount totalling around £11,000. Thank you so much to everyone who took part and to those who donated via buckets outside School and on the School's JustGiving page.



# Record year for US university places

It was a record year for applications to the US from CLS pupils. Nineteen pupils secured offers from Harvard, Cornell, Yale, Brown, UPenn, Columbia, New York University, Northeastern, Georgetown, Georgia Tech, Duke, Johns Hopkins, U Chicago, Purdue, Stanford, UC Berkeley, UC San Diego, UC Irvine, University of Southern California and University of Oregon. Deputy Head Boy, Gabriel, is taking up a place at Harvard, turning down five offers including three other Ivy League universities. Another noteworthy

achievement is Yeshin's Hodson Trust Scholarship to Johns Hopkins University, a scholarship awarded on the basis of academic and personal achievement and leadership. These results are particularly impressive given the intensely competitive admissions landscape in the US this year. Applications to highly selective colleges have grown by 25% over the last two years, resulting in a significant reduction in offer rates ('acceptance rates' in US parlance), and there is no denying that pupils

were more likely to be 'denied' than 'accepted'. Nonetheless, many of the offers came from colleges with single digit admit rates in this admissions cycle, including Harvard (3.2%), Columbia (3.7%), Brown (5%), Johns Hopkins (6.5%), Northeastern (6.7%) and Cornell (6.9%). It is very important that pupils are strategic with their applications and choose colleges that are a good 'fit' with their academic and extra-curricular interests and values. Following these guiding principles has been key to CLS pupils' success.

## Fourth Form pupil represents England in basketball

Fourth Form pupil, Amari, represented England in a European Basketball Tournament, held in Spain during the Easter break. Amari is enjoying a great CLS career, which has already included playing for the U14 team when in Old Grammar (Year 7). He has played a big part in steering the U16 team to the quarter-finals of the nationals, and outside of school, Amari plays for Harrow Falcons in the Premier League. The selection process for the England team was quite brutal, but he was able to successfully navigate his way through regional, super-regional and national selection camps. Twelve players from an initial 1000 were chosen and he travelled to Spain to take part. Amari thoroughly enjoyed the tournament, which involved six games over three days and England emerged as winners, beating Spain by a single point.





## Sterling performances in 'James and the Giant Peach'



A group of about thirty pupils from CLS and CLSG made up the cast of the amateur production of 'James and the Giant Peach', by Roald Dahl, adapted by Richard R George, and led by Drama teacher Miss Martin, in her inaugural CLS production.

According to an audience member she did a fantastic job at getting the cast to work together, rebounding off each other perfectly with great chemistry. Cast member Tom commented, "I think it's great that both schools are collaborating; it means we get to see CLSG pupils."

In the middle of the stage stood a huge, orange peach. One cast member said, "It was an incredible feat creating such an ingenious creation; it was wooden but with numerous layers,

allowing the bugs and James to enter inside, and with some crazy lighting effects it gave the impression it was growing. This set was truly something."

The costumes were also stunning, said Tom: "I love the way that some costumes are simple, and some are intense and powerful." It was creatively choreographed, with sweeps of people on stage at the same time, and actors such as the aunts doubling up as roles like sharks and birds.

The play, which was performed in the School's theatre in June, was an hour long and was an incredible show, with sterling appearances from 'James', the centipede and the two aunts, to name a few.

### A fond farewell to CLS teachers

City of London School was sad to say goodbye to the following teachers in July 2022. All have played a valuable role in the life of the School and will be missed by pupils and colleagues:

**Marta Ciechanowicz** - Deputy Head of Higher Education, Teacher of French 2011 - 2022

**James Innes** - Teacher of Geography 2020 - 2022

**Emma Lockhart** - Teacher of Mathematics 2020 - 2022

**Dhwani Patel** - Teacher of History & Politics 2019 - 2022

**Emma Pollock** - Head of Old Grammar, Teacher of Chemistry 2017 - 2022

**Kate Weare** - Teacher of Religious Education 2021 - 2022

## Positive outlook for OC Golf Society

The Halford Hewitt Golf Tournament reverted to its traditional date in early April and the Old Citizens Golfing Society entered a team as usual. The previous year's competition was delayed due to Covid restrictions until September 2021 so just six months later we all motored down to Deal for the 2022 competition - all very strange. While last September we enjoyed excellent weather, this April the weather reverted to a more normal pattern, heavy rain for the practice round and 65 mph winds for the main event!

We were drawn to play Wellingborough at Royal Cinque Ports GC, affectionately known as Deal. We last played Wellingborough around five years ago and had a close encounter where we lost 3 matches to 2. Our hopes were high particularly now that we have two low handicap golfers to strengthen our squad.

The previous day's rain had passed to be replaced by very strong winds which slowed play considerably. Golf balls were oscillating on the greens making putting difficult, but the conditions were the same for everybody. The order of play was Mark Stockton (Hon Secretary), with Alex Bennett. They lost on the 19th green when their opponents sank a long putt across the green. By the time evening came the putt had lengthened to more than 40 feet! The second pair of Jamie Spencer and Louis Taylor lost 2/1 to seasoned campaigners from Wellingborough. The 4th pair of Paul Stockton and Alex Barnham lost 3/2 as did the last pair Paul Marsh and Tom DG Ross. The highlight was our 3rd pairing of the evergreen Terry Bridle and Adam Jones who won 1 up. In retrospect I think this is the closest result since I've attended the Halford Hewitt and shows we are making progress as opposed to the heavy defeats we have suffered in the past. The future for our



draw in next year's competition.

### Spring meeting at Hadley Wood GC

On a rather overcast and chilly day on 23rd May, 11 Old Cits gathered at Hadley Wood Golf Club, a wonderful Alistair Mackenzie course (he of Augusta, Georgia and The Masters fame) for our Spring Meeting. A course noted for its fast, undulating greens, it was to prove a good

test for us all.

After a pleasant light lunch, albeit having left untouched quite a lot of the generous carvery, we played 18 holes Stableford for the Stanley Bell trophy, one of our many old and lovely cups. Despite little run for the golf ball and a course playing quite long, four of our players recorded scores of 30 points or above, a decent standard. Our two best players, Louis Taylor and Adam Jones, who both play off a handicap index of 2, scored a very creditable 33 and 32 points respectively, both comfortably in the 70s on a gross basis.



However, in the end, Thomas Ross emerged victorious with an excellent 36 points and playing exactly to his handicap of 15. He had hoped to retain his trophy from last year and he achieved his goal but only just beating John Gee-Grant, a golfer in form, who had 34 points. After some gentle ribbing from the assembled company about the slightly tarnished appearance of the cup, which, we learnt, had been cleaned back in January, Thomas Ross was presented with the trophy.

After some refreshing drinks on what was briefly a sunny terrace, we all meandered home having enjoyed great OC company and conviviality. Do please get in touch if you would like to play at oldcitizensgolfingsociety@gmail.com.

**Mark Stockton**  
Hon Secretary - OCGS



Mixed fortunes in 2021 cricket season



The last season’s results were not very good which was as we feared because of the difficulty of attracting more players. Leading players got married or started a family, meaning their availability was reduced, which hit us badly as we do not have much in the way of reserves. Recruitment from the school and recent school leavers has been disappointing. This is clearly an area where we need to continue to work at identifying a way that allows the club to attract new young members. Similarly, we need to improve how we are able to communicate with all players.

Here are summaries of some of the 2021 matches.:

**v. Eastcote CC – May 9th – Won**  
**Eastcote 256 Old Cits 259-7**  
Old Cits won the toss and decided to bat in lovely conditions with a nearby cheap bar, 20-degree heat, and a pitch setting that could have been twinned with Augusta’s Amen Corner.

Spring has sprung, the season has begun and with it came Old Citizens’ hopes of ending a long winless streak. For the first time in living memory, all players turned up before the first ball was bowled, perhaps being inspired by the offer of playing on the hallowed grounds where

Old Cits’ captain - Richard Hillman – first learned his craft.

We won the toss on a hard green wicket, decided to put Eastcote in to bat, given our plethora of seam bowlers. Cits opened their bowling with Sir Mike (6-0-26-2) and Mike Gabbay (8-0-45-1) either end and both kept things fairly tight in the opening spell. With both bowlers drawing batsmen in with drives from the off and a hint of swing in the air, we thought we would get more scalps, but the openers buckled down, playing technically correct shots on the whole, and not giving much away. Mike Knight drew first blood in the tenth over when their opener, George Harvey, attempted a lofted drive off the toe of the bat, looping high in the air and into the grateful hands of field captain of the day, Paddy Hatcher. Eastcote 45-1. Shahil Somani (2-0-6-0) took over from Gabbay running down the hill and bowled a tight first over. Sir Mike came back for one last over and history repeated itself – removing another opener, who looked a strong player, with an inswinger that sat up forcing Ventateshan to loop the ball to Paddy once again. 49-2.

Callum Hopkins (6-0-41-0), resplendent in a hairband that would not look out of place in the Real Madrid reserves in the season of 2003/4 took the

ball from Sir Mike, bringing some real pace and aggression to the proceedings. Then came a moment of controversy on a par with the Muralitharon no-balling of 1996 with Shahil bowling his second beamer of the match.

The aptly named umpire (whose name shone out in bright lights on the informative scoreboard - A Pratt) did his best Mike Dean impression, flew in the face of common sense and stuck two fingers up to the spirit of the game. A Pratt decided the risk of allowing Shahil to continue was too great, and similar to DI’s Arnott and Hastings, his first duty was preservation of life. Despite protestations from both sides, the fact that it was a Sunday match, and that Shahil did not mean it, nor considered himself a fast bowler, Somani had to be hooked off and the ambidextrous Kyle Pittman (2-0-18-0) took over, switching between right arm seam and left arm slow halfway through the over.

Paddy (7-1-42-2) and Grendo (8-0-56-2) took the baton from Kyle and Callum, drawing a few plays and misses but mainly falling foul of some booming drives from the middle order before Grendo removed the danger men, getting Shah to blast one into Freddie Hatcher’s midriff, who grabbed the ball with an excellent reflex

catch, and had Nazem chop a back-of-a-length ball onto his stumps, much to the batsman’s dismay.

Jack Malnick (2-0-28-0), fresh from his starring role in the BBC television series ‘Being Jewish’, came on for 2 overs, grumbling about slipped discs and mistaken identities, and struggled to shake off the rust of a long break without bowling.

The rest of the order batted well but succumbed to some great OC fielding with 2 brilliant run outs from Grendo (one a direct hit with only 1.5 stumps to aim at), a long-range stumping by Bill Barnes catching the batsman unawares, Gabbay claiming a well-deserved scalp with a top edge hoick flying straight up and landing in the keeping gloves of Bill, and a second chop on.

Eastcote ended a great innings with a well-deserved 256-9.

Sir Mike and Grendo strode to

the crease to begin OC’s fightback of what appeared to be a rather imposing total. With Nazem – their powerful top scorer - opening the bowling alongside a shorter skiddier “Vinny”. The first ball was met with a powerful cut from Knight setting the tone for the rest of the team. Unfortunately, later in the over, having run a quick 2, Grendo met his demise with a ball that jagged back off the seam and cleaned him up. OC 12-1. Kyle Pittman joined Mike in the middle and quickly set to work, Kyle making it to 40 without bothering to run a single, and Mike keeping his end ticking over with wonderful shots all around the ground. The pair put on a quick 78 before Knight fell with a cut to point drawing a sharp catch from the fielder. OC 90-2.

Unfortunately for Eastcote, a Mustang-less Malnick took Mike’s place, and despite the stereotypes about friendly Skoda drivers, proceeded to

show no mercy to the youthful bowling attack, launching more objects into orbit than the billionaire car making son of a South African emerald magnate. Kyle brought up a steady 50 with just one scare, a dropped diving catch, but lost his wicket to the pick of Eastcote’s bowlers, the diminutive spinner Anay, with an on-drive straight to midwicket. The first and elder Hatcher didn’t amount to much with the bat quickly caught at long on for 6 and was replaced by his younger brother.

This Malnick/F Hatcher partnership soon took the game away from Eastcote, with expansive drives, hard pulls, delicate cuts, but mostly massive hoicks to cow corner taking chunks out of the target, and potentially some of the nearby parked cars. The destructive duo put on 99 before Fred did what he can usually only dream of doing, and emulated his sibling, caught at long on off the bowling

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2021 Batting Averages						
Name	Innings	Not out	High score	100/50	Runs	Average
Callum HOPKINS	3	1	72	0/1	113	56.50
Jack MALNICK	4	0	92	0/1	129	32.25
Mike KNIGHT	7	0	76	0/2	178	25.43
Paddy HATCHER	4	0	41	0/0	75	18.75
Uzair CHIRAGDIN	3	1	33*	0/0	33	16.50
Richard HILLMAN	8	2	32*	0/0	93	15.50
Steve RINGER	5	0	21	0/0	55	11.00
Asif LAKHO	6	0	33	0/0	59	9.83
Oscar PAIN	3	0	26	0/0	28	9.33
Kirtiman SINGH	6	3	8*	0/0	16	5.33
Richard MILLETT	3	0	6	0/0	12	4.00
Shahil SOMANI	4	0	12	0/0	15	3.75
Nic KAMLISH	6	2	6*	0/0	9	2.25
Also batted:						
Teejay JORDAN 1-0-79-79		Jake PITTMAN 1-0-64-64				
Fred HATCHER 2-0-40-53		SAYEM 2-0-31-53		A GANESHALINEAM 1-0-29-29		
Michael OKUN 1-0-28-28		James HSIA 2-0-23-28		MARDON 1-1-24*-24		
Mike SHANNON 3-2-9*-24		David MILLER 2-0-17-17		Mike GABBAY 2-1-14-14		
Emil REISSER-WESTON 2-0-12-12		Dan GRENDOWICZ 1-0-8-8		Sam PACKER 1-0-5-5		
Richard SALDANHA 1-0-3-3		Patrick HOPKINS 1-0-3-3		Nick BERNARDOUT 2-0-1-2		
Saad SYED 1-0-1-1		Dick BARDSLEY 1-1-0*-0		Dinesh PANCH 1-0-0-0		
Bill BARNES did not bat						



cont. from page 23....

of Anay for 40. Shahil continued his miserable day, swinging and missing at the first ball he faced, then doing the same to the second, which was this time unfortunately targeted at middle stump, gone for a duck.

If you live by the sword you die by the sword, and Jack’s innings came to an end with 92 off 70 balls with one wallop too many being caught off the bowling of one member of the opposition we could be sure was vaccinated – Arvind (captain and kind host), leaving Hopkins and Gabbay to see us home with a towering 6 in 31 overs with 4 wickets to spare.

Paddy Hatcher

v. Mayfield CC – May 29th – Lost  
Old Cits 164-9 Mayfield 166-3

We visited Palmers Green to play long standing opponents Mayfield. Despite the warm weather the pitch was soft and green, and it was no surprise to find we were asked to bat in a timed game. Mike and I opened the batting and it was soon clear that the pitch was painfully slow and a little uneven. Neither of us really timed the ball and Mike was soon out caught at

mid-off. I was joined by TJ, and he seemed to adapt to the pitch more easily. I inched to a painful 4 before a leading edge put me out of my misery. Steve came to the wicket and the run rate increased from a snail-like two to a respectable four an over. The Mayfield attack was well suited to the pitch and a slow left armer bowled a dozen overs of spin. Steve and TJ had taken the score to 55 when Steve was caught at mid-off for 15. Richard Millett was unlucky to top edge a full toss, and Patrick was caught on the back foot in front of the stumps. Asif hit a boundary but was then caught and bowled and when Kirtiman played on we were 80-7. TJ had witnessed the carnage from 22 yards away, but he might as well have been playing on a different pitch. He had made his way to an untroubled 36 when Uzair joined him. Batting down the order Uzair has had few opportunities to shine with the bat but he offered TJ solid support before becoming more expansive. TJ passed 50 with a pull over mid-wicket and the pair added 61 in twelve overs. He finally fell for a superb 79. Nic joined Uzair and the pair added 18 before Nic was bowled. We declared on 164-9 from 51

quickly bowled overs with Uzair unbeaten on 33.

Mike and Asif opened the bowling and Mike struck in the second over with a trademark inswinging delivery. After the early set back Mayfield rebuilt cautiously. Asif’s spell improved as he found some rhythm. Richard Millett joined the attack and had a close lbw appeal turned down. When Uzair replaced Asif his first over was a real mixture. After a couple of wides, he bowled the opener for 22. Off the last ball he might have taken a wicket in two ways. The number three hit the ball hard and low to Uzair. He got both hands to the ball but could not hold on to take the catch. Instead, he deflected the ball onto his stumps and most of us thought the new batsman had failed to get his bat down behind the line in time. It was not costly when Uzair had him lbw for 7. Some of the umpiring was questionable and we nearly benefited when the number five was adjudged lbw to Richard. However, there was a very clear inside edge, so we withdrew the appeal. It was to prove costly. The rest of the innings followed a repetitive pattern. The two Mayfield batsmen played well with the number

2021 Bowling Averages							
Name	Overs	Maidens	3W+	BB	RUNS	WKTS	AVE
Sam PACKER	6	5	0	2-4	4	2	2.00
Michael KNIGHT	40	7	2	5-16	116	15	7.73
Jack MALNICK	9	0	0	2-21	92	4	23.00
Uzair CHIRAGDIN	21	1	0	2-16	101	4	25.25
Mike SHANNON	28	1	0	2-13	116	4	29.00
Nic KAMLISH	7.3	0	0	1-19	66	2	33.00
Paddy HATCHER	23	2	0	2-41	113	3	38.33
Richard MILLETT	35	4	1	4-47	201	5	40.20
Dan GRENDOWICZ	13	0	0	2-56	83	2	41.50
Shahil SOMANI	18	0	0	2-50	96	2	48.00
Asif LAKHO	42	10	0	2-7	149	3	49.67
Kirtiman SINGH	26	1	0	1-33	203	2	101.50
Also bowled:							
Callum HOPKINS 7.2-0-44-1		Mike GABBAY 13-1-54-1		Oscar PAIN 14-0-116-1			
Jake PITTMAN 1-0-13-0		Patrick HOPKINS 2-0-17-0		Saad SYED 4-0-23-0			
Teejay JORDAN 4-0-23-0		Fred HATCHER 2-0-23-0		Dinesh PANCH 3-0-43-0			
Richard SALDANHA 5-0-45-0		Nick BERNARDOUT 12-0-78-0					

2021 Fielding	
Wicket-keeping	Catches
Richard HILLMAN 8 (4 stumped 4 caught)	RINGER 3, MALNICK 3, KNIGHT 2, P HATCHER 2,
Bill BARNES 2 (1 stumped 1 caught)	PAIN 2, AGHILL 2, F HATCHER 1, SYED 1, LAKHO 1,
	MARDEN 1, SAYEM 1

three looking a composed player and the number five being a little less orthodox and favouring the midwicket area. All the bowlers had their moments, and a number of chances were either dropped or just eluded the fieldsmen. Mayfield paced their innings well, and they passed the target with three overs to spare. They were deserving victors.

Richard Hillman

v. Pacific CC – June 5th – Lost  
Old Cits 113 Pacific 114-7

A glorious day, summer had truly arrived, but unfortunately the pitch did not match the weather. Due to the groundsmen of the Metropolitan Sports Ground having been furloughed and therefore unable to prep the pitch in the spring, I believe there are probably better wickets on the moon. With dandelions growing in the middle of the pitch and the overnight rain giving the pitch a texture of somewhat resembling Blu-tac, this was not a pitch for batsmen.

On returning home afterwards I had this conversation with my girlfriend: ‘How was cricket?’ she asks cautiously as I walk through the front door.

Me: ‘Fabulous.’

‘Really, did you score runs?’

Me: ‘Nope, got out to a silly shot. ‘

‘Did you bowl?’

Me: ‘A little bit – rolled my ankle too.’

‘Any wicket-keeping?’

Me: ‘Don’t be stupid.’

‘And the lunch?’

Me: ‘Alright, slightly dry sandwiches and a jam roll, but maybe should have stuck to my meal deal.’

‘Hmm... so how was it so fabulous?’

Sometimes it can be hard to explain the wonder of cricket to a non-cricketer. I didn’t like to mention the tedious journey in a hot traffic jam round the North Circular, or the long yomp across various

football pitches and cricket pitches carrying an enormous cricket bag, four bats and a camping chair in order to get to the far reaches of the Metropolitan cricket ground and pitch 3 where our match was taking place. None of these seemed like positive points to back up my summary of the day.

Yet it was fabulous, a game with as many ups and downs as a fiddler’s elbow, and one worthy of James Gleadow, in

singles on the first two deliveries before a ball on a good length jumped up and was cut with excellent technique by Saad comfortably into the belly button of the fielder at point who took an easy catch. Jack came in at three. It was less of an innings and more of a slow-paced bleep test for Jack, who defended the first ball and was bowled by the second, so back he went to reapply the sunscreen and moan about the coin toss.

Callum took his place

and did considerably better, although after an hour or so of sharing the middle with Cal and his DIY haircut, Mike Knight was given out lbw, probably an umpire’s call on review. Shahil picked up from where he left off at Eastcote, deciding the best course of action for a half tracker down the leg side, was to paddle the ball softly to a grateful fielder, for a duck.

PDH was at six and he and Hopkins kept the runs ticking over with Callum walloping

boundaries, until the slow left arm wrist spinner – Aron – threw a moonball into the atmosphere. Callum’s eyes lit up, he took a powerful stride ready to smash the ball into oblivion, there was a woosh as the willow carved through the air, but to Hopkins’ dismay, the only sound of red leather on wood was that of the ball hitting the stumps as he missed it completely and he trudged back.

Hillman and PDH then hung around for quite a few overs, rotating the strike well, quite tricky against the prohibitively slow bowling. PDH went the same way as Saad, cutting a loopy ball he should have left. Kirtiman went for a duck, and Asif managed just five, before Rich fell lbw, maybe unjustly, after a stoic innings with great concentration leaving it to Kamlish and Shannon to see us home. Both played

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OCCC v Pacific at Bushey

whose memory the match was played as a beloved member of both Old Cits and Pacific.

If cricket has become a batsman’s game, then this was a pitch to redress the balance. Captain for the day Patrick Hatcher tossed the coin high into the air and the opposition captain “Mutz” correctly called heads and very sensibly put us in to bat, striking a sense of disquietude amongst the Old Cits batting line-up, especially Jack “BBC 3” Malnick who made it very clear that if we lost, it was solely because of PDH’s inability to win the coin toss. Saad and Sir Mike padded up regardless and headed out to open up the batting. The opening bowlers were similar to what we normally face, some pace and a good line and length, however, on a deck as reliable as a corrugated iron roof it was like facing Akram and Steyn. The openers swapped



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some great shots sneaking ones and twos, before Junky was snagged off a drive to cover. All out for 113. Top scorer Hopkins with 35, and then extras with 21.

After our surprise tea, kindly put on by the ground staff when most clubs were still saying they could not supply meals because of Covid, Old Cits decided to learn from the opposition tactics of taking pace off the ball and opened with Shannon and Shahil who got us off to a great start. Their openers with such a small target to chase down were understandably cautious, but were given very little to play at, with metronomic accuracy from both ends. The first victim fell in Junky's third over, pitching middle, impact middle. Any umpire in the world have had to give that, and Mehta was sent packing for eight.

Shahil kept it tight and was replaced after four overs by Knight, at which point the game became really interesting. With

Junky drying up the runs at the other end, the batsmen had to play at Mike, and after a maiden in his first, he took the prized wicket of Toby Chasseaud, knocking over his off stump with one of his ever-reliable inswingers. This gave Old Cits a whiff of hope and suddenly the outfield was a bit



OCCC v School at Grove Park

noisier, the bowlers' run ups a bit quicker, and the throw backs to Hillman behind the stumps had a bit more zip to them.

Sir Mike's third over was a double wicket maiden, bowling Woodland for one, before Saad took a contender for

catch of the season at second slip, flying to his right and snatching the ball out of the air one handed to send Reny who had looked dangerous with some big hitting, back to the shed with 15.

At the end of Mike's spell we had Pacific at 72-6. A real upset was on the cards after our score. Mike Knight ended with an incredible 5-16. Asif Lakho and Saad took the ball from Junky and Mike, with some great seam bowling, and PDH finished up towards the end of the innings, getting the captain to chop on, but Old Cits were probably 30 runs odd short of where we needed to be, and Pacific reached the target in 31 overs.

A brilliant and enjoyable contest between two friendly rivals played in excellent spirit.

Paddy Hatcher

# OC Football Club seeks help to relaunch

The Old Citizens Football Club is looking to relaunch itself, play some friendly games and hopefully build playing numbers so we can re-enter the Arthurian League, which is the principal league for Old Boys Football.

Initially we are looking to establish a Management Committee which can work with Neil Edwards (Chairman of the Sports Clubs) to agree terms of reference for the Football section and work up plans to get a team playing. Helping make this happen are the School's digital platforms and the work of its Alumni Team in connecting Old Citizens.

We are all aware that over generations, CLS football has been fun and a success both on and off the field, which augurs well for a future supply of strong footballing talent. The School has allowed us to use the facilities at Grove Park which, as we all know, offers a great surface to play on. It also means we can enjoy the support of head groundsman, Terry, his dog Clip, and other members of Team Terry.

If you want to help relaunch the Old Cits Football Section, please contact Neil on neiledwards44@icloud.com

**All OC sports receive financial and other assistance and support from the Sports Committee.**

We have not got much activity happening on the pitch currently, but it does give us an opportunity to look at the past. In the 1902/03 season, our ninth year, PJ Peacock volunteered to raise all

the teams. It must have been quite a job as by that season we were running three sides on a Saturday and there was not much in the way of communication. Only post was readily available, even the telephone was very much in its infancy, and most people worked Saturday mornings. In 1909/10 he became captain of the first eleven for five seasons, taking over from our longest serving team skipper, HF Pimm, who was in charge for an impressive eight years.

By the end of the 1905/06 season the first eleven had an impressive record: Played 294 Won 138 Drawn 50 Lost 100 games. Goals for 678 and Goals against 566 Biggest win: Old Citizens 13 Southend 0. (This record still stands)

We tried to check whether the Southend we beat had any connection with Southend United of the Football League. It seems that our victory occurred before the professional club was formed which was in May 1906. Both clubs seem to have their roots in a pub background - one mentions the Blue Boar pub, but the other pub is not named. In the 1890s five Southend teams can be traced, Southend Victoria, Southend Amateurs, Southend Corinthians, Southend Ramblers, and Southend Wesleyans. All were amateur sides, of course, but had it been any of those clubs, it is unlikely that they would have been referred to as just Southend.

The second eleven record win was also 13-0.

## Covid disrupts Old Cits Water Polo league schedule participation

There has been little to record on the water polo front, where the league schedule was devastated by Covid and we only managed to play one match throughout the 2021/2022 season. We have had games called off when players tested positive on the day before we were due to play, and there was a chemical leak at the Olympic swimming pool. We were also handicapped by the school being unwilling to let us have use of the school swimming pool for our home matches, something we hope to be able to sort out for the 2022/2023 season.

Next year we look forward to having more to tell readers. We shall be participating in the Thameside Waterpolo League (Division 1) as usual, and we would welcome any new faces that are interested in joining in our activities.

The league did not have much to upload on their website last season, but they did add a table summary of team league results of matches from previous years which is shown right.

Thameside Water Polo League Historical Club Results Pre-2022									
Pos	Team	Pts/ game	Plyd	Won	Drwn	Lost	For	Agn	Diff
1	Whitgift Trinity	2.58	64	55	0	9	803	413	390
2	Old Whitgiftians	2.50	6	5	0	1	65	37	28
3	Croydon Amphibians	2.14	72	50	4	18	820	633	187
4	Avondale	2.03	68	45	3	20	700	492	208
5	Basildon	1.91	11	7	0	4	107	82	25
6	BOAC Eastern Otter	1.67	18	10	0	8	168	153	15
7	Polytechnic	1.45	69	31	7	31	635	638	-3
8	Eastern Otter	1.42	53	23	6	24	477	453	24
9	Otter	1.37	70	39	6	34	662	735	-73
10	Blue Marlins	1.07	70	24	3	43	492	675	-183
11	Citizens	0.68	69	13	8	48	484	644	-160
12	London Orcas	0.44	75	10	3	62	404	857	-453
13	Metropolitan Police	0.00	1	0	0	1	0	5	-5
assumes 3 points for win, 1 point for draw					(Source: Thameside League website)				



## OC Eton Fives Club aiming to match youth with vigour next season

A full season of OC Eton Fives featured progress to the EFA Trophy's semi-final stage (for the first time), a gong for our 83-year-old stalwart David Cooper, two trips to Zurich (winning one Hawken Garrett match and losing one) and one to Geneva, our 21st half blue (well done, Spencer) and a season-ending 23-entry Adams Cup. All told, we saw the participation of some 38 players in all (24 actual Old Citizens and 12 guests, whether in matches, tournaments or tours abroad). On the debit side, we lost Alistair Simpson, in February, and suffered a first-round exit from the Barber Cup (the FA Cup of Eton fives).

### Choustikov and Robinson Win Wood Plate

The season kicked off with a pandemic-hit edition of the Wood plate. A dozen of us competed and in the end it was won by current Cambridge captain Nick Choustikov and guest John Robinson (who said he had never before won any fives silverware in all the 40 plus years he'd been playing the game, on and off).

### Kelly and Lemie win Adams Cup

We had six courts full of players for the season-ending Adams Cup, our annual main event and the culmination this year of four days of games and entertainment.

Club treasurer Stephen Kelly and Swiss guest David Lemie won the final 12-8 against Les Jacobs and guest star Karen Hird (fresh from winning the ladies' national championship in the spring).

It was a good final: Stephen's new under-arm side-spun shot into the buttress proved a reliable point-scorer and David's cutting and return of cut made the difference despite some

stubborn resistance from Les and quality shot-making from Karen.

Our club chairman David White presented the cup.

The OCEFC has held the Adams Cup ever since 1928, which makes it the second oldest cup in fives (to the Kinnaird itself, by a few months).

This year we were returning to something like full strength after the pandemic – 23 players took part.

We were glad to see back on court long-time absentees Jonny Powell and

The format of the Cup has always involved a draw made on the day – we seed half the entry then pick names out of a hat to decide partners.

This year's draw matched: Saajan Shah with Filippo Carlo Variola, Roman Heindorff with Alexandre de Senger, John Gee-Grant with Mark Schreiber, Martin East with Ashley Lumbard, Jonathan Powell with Ralph Morgan, Sam Inigo Packer with Peter Chen, Mark Stockton with David Cooper, Mark George Jacobs with Leon Schoenleber, Daniel Floyd with Pavel

Penev, Stephen Kelly with David Lemie, and Les Jacobs with Karen Hird. JPR partnered himself (a minor tweak to the rules makes this perfectly feasible).

This season's event was the final part of an extended weekend of entertainments – starting with the EFA's annual dinner at the splendid RAC in Pall Mall (at which the OCEFC took two tables). The weekend featured an introduction to shire horses at Hampton Court Palace (thanks to Lizzie White) and real tennis at Hampton Court Palace (thanks to Karen Hird), and a match at Eton on Saturday (thanks, Eton College coach Ryan Perrie).

### OCEFC mobs EFA's Pall Mall dinner - and David Cooper wins a gong

Nearly a dozen of us were at the EFA's annual dinner, held at the RAC in Pall Mall.

David White, David Cooper, Geoff Bates, Kevin Brooks, Mark Stockton, Stephen Kelly, Spencer Chapman, John Reynolds, Martin East, Jacob Greenhouse and Saajan Shah filled two tables (with help from half a dozen of our Swiss



OCEFC members at the EFA Dinner

mates) at a splendid dinner, at which octogenarian David Cooper was awarded the Unsung Hero gong for his many decades of untrumpeted support to the game. Some film was shown of his playing in Zuoz in the late 1950s – and a volley into the buttress drew applause from the 100 or so gathered in the splendid Mountbatten banqueting room. David had to wait 60 years for that shot to receive its due.

The annual dinner has been transformed by the new venue – this is only the second or third time it has been held at the RAC – previously the annual dinner was held in a variety of school refectories – and it now makes for a splendid occasion. It's like a big party where you know everybody and have lots in common with them. We should try to fill three tables next year.

### Five Old Cits at Zurich International Fives Tournaments

We turned up in some force for the Zurich International Fives Tournament in May, gathering from all over the continent.

Edwin Gosnell came from Bamberg in central Germany, where he is studying; Bonn-resident Martin East took time

off from a family holiday in England to attend; Alex Alexander Kasterine came up from Geneva where he works for the UN, and Stephen Kelly and John Reynolds flew in from London.



David Cooper addresses the ball

A total of 16 competitors took part in a tournament of two halves: the first half saw round after round of single games with randomly selected partners, and

then the top half of the draw made the cut to the semi-finals. John Reynolds and his partner Viktor ended up winning the tournament (named the John Reynolds Trophy – who knows why, it was the hosts' choice when the tournament started

nearly 10 years ago). We took an early lead and never let go. Viktor was playing against his father Per, and Marc Mettler, who has won the trophy twice already, so was bidding to complete his hat-trick but his high-energy game seemed to tire him in the heat of the afternoon.

Zurich was warm, in the high 20s. We had a lovely al fresco supper afterwards, as guests of the Zurich branch of the Zuozer fives club, for which many, many thanks.

Last September, four of us made the trip and I won the trophy (for the first time) with Alexandre de Senger. We beat Alexander Heuberger and David Lemie in the final, by a score of 12-7.

### Win one, lose one: we share honours against the Swiss

In May, the Swiss handed us a two-nil defeat on their home courts in Zurich, in a couple of very close matches played in



Adams Cup winners David Lemie and Stephen Kelly

Roman Heindorff, back from Hong Kong and Hamburg respectively. And David Cooper – now 83 – surely registered a record as the oldest ever player to take an active part.

We also were delighted to welcome players from Geneva and Zurich – continuing a friendship between the Old Zuozers and the Old Citizens which stretches back to the 1950s, when we visited their home courts in the mountains of Switzerland for the first time.

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the best spirit. In doing so, they won back the Hawken-Garrett Cup (the trophy we play for against the Old Zuozers), and narrowed the all-time tally to five-six.

At second pair, Alex Kasterine (who only plays a couple of times a year these days but you'd not think it) and Stephen Kelly started slowly but nearly snatched the first set. The second went down to the wire but again, they were unable to clinch it.

At first pair, Edwin Gosnell and John Reynolds lost the first set but came back to take the second. The decider saw them grab an 11-8 lead but they couldn't finish the job.

Ist pair: Steve Kronenberg and Luke Samson beat John Reynolds and Edwin Gosnell 12-8, 6-12, 12-11.

Alexander Heuberger and Fenno Brakel beat Stephen Kelly and Alexander Kasterine 12-10, 12-11.

Afterwards, we went to the Restaurant Geeren for some smashing Rösti, as we do like to do.

The previous September four of us won a round of the Hawken-Garrett, by the smallest margin: 1.5 vs 0.5 on the Zurich courts.

Alexander Kasterine and John Reynolds beat Fenno Brakel and Steve Kronenberg 3-0.

Stephen Kelly and Martin East drew with Alexandre de Senger and Florian G'tier 2-2.

We then went to the nearby restaurant for magnificent rösti and speck.

We've been competing for the HK Cup for six years – whenever we and Zuozer fives players meet, we play a round. It's named after the two Old Citizens who were instrumental in starting the fives club up after the Second War, and then began visiting the Lyceum Alpinum in Zuoz in the 1950s.

The OCEFC and the Lyceum have a fives history stretching back to the 1920s, when a Lyceum touring team played the Old Citizens in a match at Queen's Club. As Alex Nice once said after a match a

few years ago: "I wish we could play the Zuozers every week."

## Spencer Chapman earns half blue

Congratulations to Spencer Chapman for playing in the 2022 Varsity match, in the process becoming the 21st Old Citizen to earn a half blue at Eton fives, winning at third pair for Oxford at Eton.

Horse-breeder Spencer, 55, (studying theology at Wycliffe Hall) said, "I'm thrilled and honoured to be number 21, particularly as I sneaked into the Oxford firsts down the stretch. Could so easily have been 5th pair if Hugo, Alfie, Andrew and Edwin had been available."

Meanwhile, Nicholas Choustikov (22, studying astrophysics at Fitzwilliam and the OCEFC's 18th half blue) played in a losing cause at first pair for Cambridge, registering his fourth appearance in the



Old vs Young, Christmas 2021

team.

The Eton Fives Association's report reads: "Cambridge's first pair had a huge amount of Varsity Match experience between them, but Viral Gudiwala and Nick Choustikov were unable to prevent the Oxford first string of Ben Hart and Crispin Straker winning in straight games.

"Second pair went the same way as former Oxford captain Qassi Gaba teamed up with fresher Beau Swallow to see off the spirited challenge of Tom Xu and Theodore Seely.

"The 3-0 win was completed at third pair, which featured a couple of notable records, Elana Garfield-Osen - on the Cambridge side - becoming the first woman to gain selection for the men's top six and Spencer Chapman - for Oxford - becoming almost certainly the oldest player to win an Eton Fives Half-Blue (possibly one of the oldest in any sport?). This was the tightest of the top three matches, but Spencer and Oxford captain James Green always had the edge in each of the three games over Elana and Panav Patel."

## Alistair Simpson, RIP

The fives club is very sorry to report the death of fives half blue and Adams Cup winner Alistair Simpson.

Former long-time secretary of the club, Gordon Stringer, reports:

"Alistair was school captain of fives in the late '50s, playing first pair with David Cooper and he became an Oxford half blue. He won the Adams Cup with David Ross in 1963.

"He also played OC cricket as a good wicketkeeper and batsman for a number of years before moving to Scotland.

"He was head boy of the school for two years running, an achievement only

equalled by one other, HC Oakley, who taught at the School.

"A person of considerable all-round ability, coupled with modesty and gifted with empathy, and diplomacy - an exemplary product of the School and his family."

Contemporary David Cooper adds: "I had some great times with Alistair. He was an inspiring fives partner. He always gave of his best and brought the best out of me.

"We had not seen each other since about 1964 so I was delighted when I

persuaded him to take the long trip from Scotland to come to the dinner. I think he really enjoyed catching up with all his old fives friends. I certainly did, not knowing this was to be our last meeting."

## Youth has its day

The annual Christmas Old Versus Young match last December ended in a 2-0 triumph for the neophytes, but not without a struggle on a misty day in Highgate.

Qualification is by location: the old sweats who were educated at the old school on the Victoria Embankment, vs the young pretenders who learned their fives while pupils at the "new" school.

Covid-themed absences meant some last-minute rejigging and a two-pair match in the end.

Nick Nicholas Choustikov and Saajan Shah won 3-2 at first pair against old school pals John Gee-Grant and Stephen Kelly. This match lasted about three hours and featured a great deal of good fives as well as endurance (and some frustration for the spectators as numerous opportunities for

either side to score went begging). The younger duo started the stronger (Kelly's always slow out of the blocks, it seems) and won the first. Then, after a team talk among themselves, the oldies started returning some cuts and took the next two. The oldsters lost the fourth and were behind for most of the fifth set

but refused to yield and were rewarded with a couple of match points. Nick and Saaj always looked likely to snatch it from them, and in the end (despite many spurned opportunities) did just that: winning 12-11 in the decider.

The brothers Mark George and Les Jacobs took a set off Sam Packer and Jonny Powell (back from Hong Kong after six years - despite this he seems to have remembered very well how to play the game) but weren't able to threaten seriously.

## OCEFC qualify for EFA trophy semi-finals

We qualified for the semi-finals of the EFA



Barber Cup team

Trophy at Eton for the first time in its 20-year history.

To do so, we came in fourth out of nine teams on a chilly winter's day, through eight gruelling rounds which lasted from 10.30am until 5.30pm (it was an all-play-all format in which teams of three pairs played one set against each other



EFA Trophy team

up to 12 points). The top of the table is shown below, and you can see how we got through by the skin of our teeth – we were on the same number of points as the fifth-placed team but beat them 2-1 in the head-to-head, so we get the decision.

1. Old Salopians (GW) 21 points
2. Old Ipswichians 19 points
3. North Oxford (KH) 19 points
4. Old Citizens 12 points
5. Old Cholmfrunians 12 points

The EFA Trophy, by the way, is (to use a soccer analogy) the game's UEFA Cup (or more properly the UEFA Europa League,

apparently). It is to the Barber Cup what the UEFA Cup is to the European Cup.

(The semi-final itself is best not dwelt upon.)

## OCEFC crashes out of Barber

We were knocked out of the game's premier club competition, the Alan Barber Cup, in the first round, losing to the Lancing Old Boys 0-3 at Highgate.

Sam Packer played at first pair for the first time with club captain John Reynolds and he held his own in very good company but they were cut to shreds by hard-hitting opponents including former first class cricketer George Campbell.

At second pair, last year's Cambridge captain Nicholas Choustikov and John Gee-Grant (fresh from a game of squash at the RAC) were always in contention but in the end unable to overcome a strong second pair.

Saajan Shah and Stephen Kelly – playing against former Kinnaird semi-finalist Doug Foster and ladies national finalist Ash Lumbard – came closest

but were edged out in the second and third to lose in straight sets.

In short, we competed manfully but never really threatened to take the tie.

However, we are looking in decent shape – now some 35 years since we lost our courts at Blackfriars – and

will come again next season.

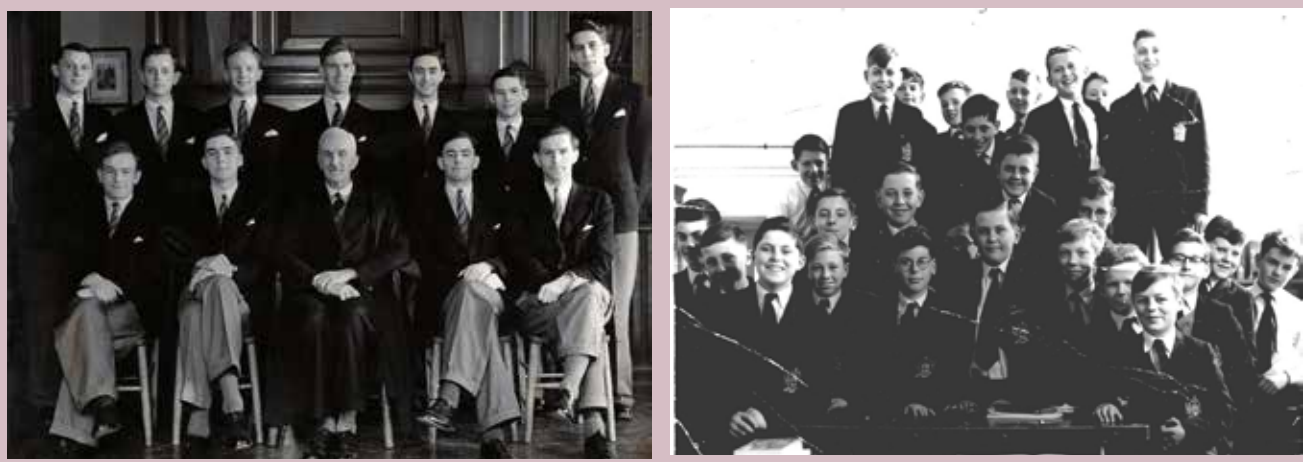
Last night we again followed our recent policy of matching youth with experience in each pairing but perhaps it's time to match youth with vigour. Next season, several other players (including Nick Gill, Edwin Gosnell, Jacob Greenhouse and possibly Roman Heindorff) will be competing for places in the team.

John Reynolds

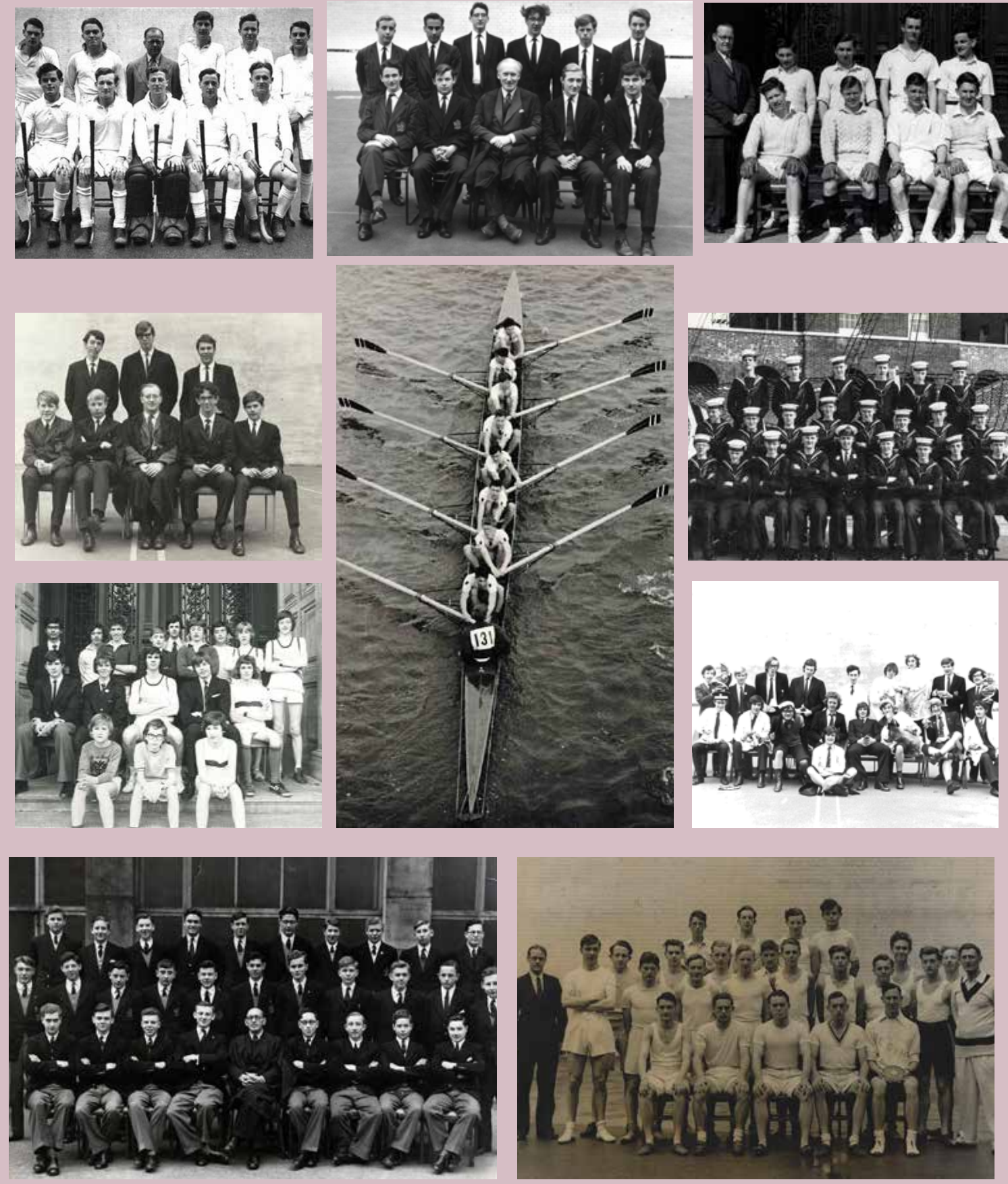


# Archives

On these pages are a small selection of photos from the CLS archives which were on display at the Ruby Reunion, attended by Old Citizens in November 2021. More photos can be seen at [www.clsarchive.org.uk](http://www.clsarchive.org.uk).



Captions: top - 1948 boxing team; middle (l-r) - 1947 shooting team, 1949 fencing team, 1949 cricket; bottom (l-r) - 1950 prefects, 1960 Class 2bb.



Captions: centre - First Eight, Head of the River Race, Beaufoy Rowing Club. Clockwise from top left - 1948 1st XI hockey team, 1962 Lower Modern, 1956 fives, 1957 CCF, 1973 biology VI senior, 1947 athletics, 1952 Fourth Form, 1974 cross-country team, 1968 Science Sixth



## Peter Henry Coulson 1929-2021 (CLS Staff 1965-1988)



It is hard to describe how lucky we were, those of us who were taught by and worked with Peter Coulson, who has died, aged 92. He taught at CLS from 1965 to 1988, twenty-three years that saw huge transformations in culture, society, and education.

As Head of English at CLS from the early 1970s, he presided over an English Department that would boast a thrilling range of teaching styles, but which was characterised by an unquenchable commitment to and love for literature and drama. To be taught by anyone in the CLS English Department in the 1980s was to be in the unmistakable presence of someone who radiated a fascination for literature, what it could do, the ways it could show us our world sharpened or transfigured. Above all, in the 1980s, when Gradgrindian philistinism stalked the land, English at CLS exemplified an unswerving belief in the idea that literature mattered and that its study was an important means to deepen its joys and enrich our understanding of language and ourselves.

In no one was this more finely embodied than in Peter

Coulson himself. He was a tall, willowy man, with a grave demeanour, but also with a smile that continually split open with joy and a wiry, electrical sense of energy, like a bow perpetually taut, ready to fire an arrow.

He exuded a sense of seriousness about literature that was so clearly sincere and deeply felt that it occurred to no one, I think, not to emulate it. His A-Level classes were university seminars, all of us sitting in a circle attending to a problematic crux in the texts of 'Othello' or trying to weigh the effect of Sisyphean repetition in 'Waiting for Godot'. They were demanding classes because Peter took us all seriously and we felt we were equal participants in the momentous and difficult enterprise of plumbing the depths of a great and mysterious play.

In some ways, Peter bore the marks of his historical moment, as we all do. He went to Hertford College, Oxford, in 1947, as an Exhibitioner not in English but in Modern History, principally because the English scholars had not yet been demobbed, but switched at the end of his first term.

He gravitated towards the scholar F W Bateson, who was a Leavisite marooned at Oxford. F R Leavis had inspired half a generation – and infuriated the other half – by both employing and seeking an attitude of reverent openness before life in the reading of literature. Bateson championed Leavis's deep seriousness but added a non-deferential egalitarianism: he wrote a celebrated book on Wordsworth because he thought people respected the poet too much and read him too little.

Coulson was lit by the Leavite fire too: there was a set of Leavis's journal, 'Scrutiny', in his classroom, Room 18. One can see in Peter Coulson a Batesonian open spirit, determined to read seriously and think hard, regardless of the critical on dit. When we read these great plays together, it felt rather as if we were reading them for the first time and all bets were off.

He developed his teaching style at High Storrs Grammar School in Sheffield from 1952, and then at Dover College in Kent from 1959, before being drawn to City of London School in the mid-sixties.

He also met and, in September 1972, married his wife, Thyra, the two settling very happily in Throwley, near Faversham in Kent. He settled, too, at CLS and became Head of English within a decade. That decade was a period of great transformation in British theatre. It saw the influence of some great European theatre practitioners – notably Bertolt Brecht and Antonin Artaud – into British theatre practice, most notably in the work of the great director Peter Brook. It is also the decade in which the National Theatre opened on the South Bank, the fringe emerged, and the theatre censorship was abolished, all of which transformed the landscape of British theatre utterly.

Although his love of literature was broad, Peter's intense fascination for the complexities of human creativity seemed particularly to have been fired by the new forms theatre was finding to ask questions about the world and itself and this enthusiasm soon found its way into CLS.

At the school, he pushed for the transformation of the Beaufof competition into semi-public performances of Shakespeare (in my time, each class in the 4th year took an Act of 'Macbeth' to perform). He oversaw the adaptation of the old Tuck Shop as a flexible, black-box, experimental theatre space: The Tuck Shop Theatre. And he modernised the production of plays in a way that is astonishingly radical and intimately connected with the London theatre happening outside the school.

His production of King Lear in 1975 was legendary and went successfully to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. He then gave the school 'Macbeth', Eugene Ionesco's absurdist reinvention of Shakespeare. In 1983, he directed Peter Shaffer's 'The Royal Hunt of the Sun' followed the next year by André Gide and Jean-Louis Barrault's adaptation of Kafka's 'The Trial'. Neil McPherson (CLS leaver 1987) longtime artistic director of the Finborough Theatre in West London, for whom these were his first two School plays, recalls with a kind of astonishment "working on the plays of writers of that quality was completely normal, a given. That's just what you did, and it's only in later years I realised that to be doing plays by writers like that at the age of 13/14 wasn't normal at all. We were very lucky".

It was bliss in that dawn to be alive, but to be directed by Peter was heaven.

Playing Atahualpach, King of the Incas, in Shaffer's play was my first encounter with Peter. Nothing prepared me for the hard work, his uncompromising rigour, his sense that putting on a play was the most important and serious thing anyone could be doing. He took us seriously – me! fifteen years old! being taken seriously! – and we gave him everything. He was tireless.

I remember being called in for a lunchtime rehearsal to work on one particular vowel sound. He would issue some of his notes on our performances on enigmatic pieces of paper. 'The colonel,' one said, 'is your only enemy.' He meant that my attempt to be commanding on stage sometimes lapsed into an English military register and we took his Delphic advice without question and it changed us.

He retired in 1988 to Throwley and to his beloved Thyra, but he remained phenomenally active. He studied literature, again, at the University of Kent and, with a peer from that course set up a book club; though, being Peter, this was a book club that decided to get to grips with James Joyce rather than anything lighter. He went to the theatre, he was involved in village life, he created and maintained a beautiful garden, and he and Thyra kept dogs and travelled widely.

I can't remember if I got in touch with him or he got in touch with me, but as my playwriting started to flourish, he would send me taut, thoughtful appraisals that, once again, to my amazement took me seriously. And when we met a couple of times for lunch, he wanted to learn, to ask me questions, to find out what I thought about the directions theatre was taking. He also wrote; he sent a play to the Finborough Theatre and met Neil McPherson not just for a drink but to discuss the plays, to improve, to learn.

Thyra had a major stroke in January 2017 from which she did not ever quite recover, dying two years later. Peter had been devoted to his wife for almost fifty years and it seems clear that with her passing, he felt ready to set down his passions and energies. He died in October 2021.

Generations of his pupils received a great gift from Peter, the endless richness of literature and theatre and the undying joys of giving it all your attention. He was an extraordinary, wonderful man.

Dan Rebellato (CLS 1979-1986)

**Picture: Peter Coulson re-directing his CLS production of King Lear for the 1975 Edinburgh Fringe (Photo © Simon Cooper)**

**Obituaries of Old Citizens**

**submitted to the School**

**can be viewed at**

**[www.cityoflondonschool.org.uk/](http://www.cityoflondonschool.org.uk/)**

**old-citizens/in-memoriam**



Michael Read 1934 - 2022

It is with great sadness that I report the death of my father, Michael Sidney Macintyre Read. Michael had a life well lived and he coveted the years he spent as a pupil at CLS (1946-1950). His time at the School defined his drive to ensure that his children and then grandchildren could be afforded similar academic opportunities. During this time he also made many lifelong friends who would influence and facilitate his future career choices, whilst also providing opportunities for him in his working life.

Although not an excellent scholar Michael was a cheeky chappie who was willing to test most boundaries. He would have loved personally to have stayed through for the sixth form however his home circumstances did not allow this to happen and so he left at the age of 16. Occasionally his approach to life (and study) got him on the wrong side of the strict late 1940s trouble-ometer and he would sometimes recount with a wry smile, the time he stuffed blotting paper down his trousers in a vain attempt to soak up the sting of the cane!

Michael spent the next ten years working for the Post Office, joining the RAF, the Government Chemist Laboratory and then finally the London Stock Exchange before deciding he wanted to get a professional qualification. He worked four menial jobs to enable him to study to become a chartered surveyor and a few

years after qualifying he became a Fellow of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors – something he was truly proud of achieving. This remained his profession and he spent the best part of the next 28 years dividing his time between France, the UK and travelling the world.

His time at CLS had left such an impact that he then sought out and joined the John Carpenter Club. He became truly involved and in time held positions on the committee so that he could continue to enjoy the camaraderie alongside like-minded souls. In addition to this, he also steered me to the school for my secondary academic years for which I remain eternally grateful.

Michael passed away peacefully, in comfort, and I had the absolute privilege of being alone with him at this moment. He was listening to his favourite music,

I was holding his hand, stroking his temple, whilst talking him through his many lifetime challenges and achievements when he took his last breath. In passing he leaves behind his devoted wife (my mother) Edith of nearly 60 years, me, his son, his three daughters Veronique, Christabel and Lucretia, and his four grandchildren Sami, Hunter, Bella and Ravi.

A life well lived Dad – thank you.

Jérôme Read  
(CLS 1979-1986)



Geoff Thompson  
1935-2022



Geoffrey Thompson (Class of 1952) was born in North London in 1935. In his tenure at CLS he was proud to represent the School in the boxing team. After he left with an A-Level in Geography and seven O-Levels, Geoffrey joined Carter Son & White as an Audit Clerk, where he studied hard for

his accountancy exams, qualifying to become a Chartered Accountant. Geoffrey spent his National Service in the RAF, at bases as far apart as the South-West and Scotland. In the RAF he put his accountancy skills to good use in the payroll department.

Among his hobbies Geoffrey could count photography, sailing and cycling. He was a keen cyclist and loved to go away with friends on long jaunts including trips to Wales and the Netherlands. Sailing was a longer-lived hobby, and he was keen

to pass his love of sailing onto his family, accompanying them on courses, and taking them out on the Thames in ‘Take 5’, a small sailing dinghy.

Geoffrey met his future wife Pamela at the local church youth club and in 1962 they were married, living in Edmonton, North London. In 1971 they moved with their three children, Joanne, Andrew and Elizabeth, to Epsom, where he lived until his passing. Sadly, Pamela succumbed to cancer in 1982.

During his lifetime Geoffrey worked for Carlsberg (Company Secretary), Drayton Paperworks (Company Secretary, Managing Director, and Chairman), finishing a distinguished career as CFO for Hobsons, a uniform manufacturer that had the distinction of making the army regimental standards. Geoffrey retired in 2000 and was able to spend 20 years cruising and holidaying with his new partner of 21 years Moira. In retirement he also volunteered as a driver for Age Concern, helping his ‘oldies’ get to hospital appointments.

Geoffrey is survived by his children Joanne, Andrew and Elizabeth, and his grandchildren Charlotte, Katie, Harry and Ellen.

Andrew Thompson

A D Simpson 1940 - 2022

Alistair Simpson (Class of 1957), who has died at the age of 82, has been a credit to both the School and his beloved family, and an inspiration to all those whose lives he touched.

A very modest person, he nonetheless enjoyed the honour of being Captain of the School for two consecutive years, and his involvement in school affairs reflected just some of his versatility. Alistair was Editor of the School Magazine, Secretary of the Modern Languages Society and a member of both the Household and Library Committees. He also achieved the distinction of reading to the Virgil Society. In sport, Alistair excelled at Eton Fives and was their Captain. He was also Captain of Cricket with a young Michael Brearley in this team and later he strengthened the Old Citizens for a number of years as a good wicketkeeper and batsman.

In his professional career, he declined an opportunity to teach Classics at Shrewsbury School and chose instead to join the Reed Paper Group. He subsequently accepted a post at Bowater, in due course becoming Production Director, Europe. He always regarded it a great privilege to have worked with so many greatly talented colleagues.

The son of ordained ministers, Alistair cherished a loving, Christian upbringing with his four sisters, and it was through the Church that he met his future wife, Joy. He often reflected

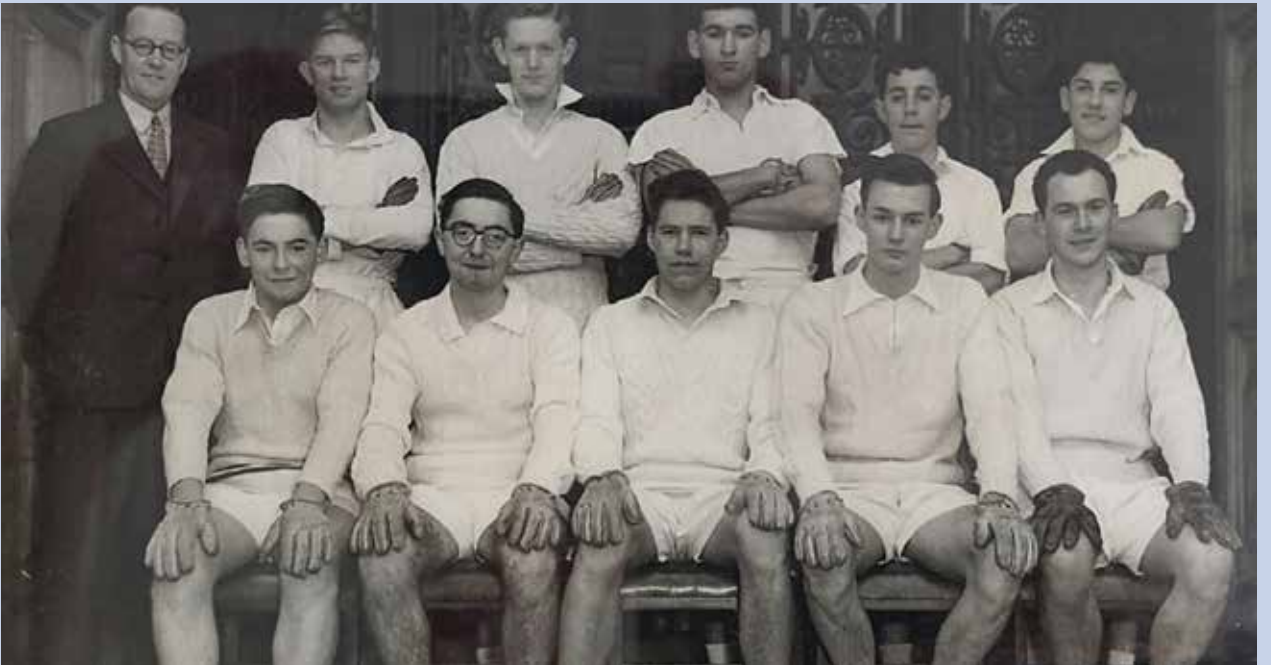
upon his rich and fulfilling family life with his wonderful wife, children and grandchildren. Alistair was proud to have won a scholarship to attend CLS. He subsequently graduated from Oxford University, having spent four happy years at Merton College. He played most sports for his college and gained a half-blue for Eton Fives.

With the move to Scotland, the Presbytery of Falkirk was grateful for his voluntary services and he was a valued elder at Larbert Old Church, where he was Treasurer. His guidance, particularly on finance, was often sought and respected. He could deliver a message firmly but fairly and with a wry smile and infectious laughter! Regular contact with friends from both school and college meant a great deal to Alistair, and the depth and strength of these enduring

friendships have often aroused envious comment from his friends of today.

Memories of Alistair reflect a person with great integrity, empathy and tact, gifted in diplomatic skills and with a deep concern for others. Despite a very distinguished career and his many achievements, Alistair remained, above all, a person of great humility. To Joy and their sons, Andrew, Timothy and Philip, we send our sincere condolences.

Gordon Stringer



Above: 1956 CLS Eton Fives team: Front row - AH Pearmain, DM Cooper (Secretary), AD Simpson (Captain), GD Stringer, H Helfer. Back row - TE Manning (M/C), RGW Stirling, GB Green, AS Corby, JM Brearley, WW Pantzer.  
Top: Alistair Simpson (left) with David Cooper at the OCEFC 125th Anniversary Dinner, Lord’s, 2019.



## John Easterling 1932 - 2021

**Henry John Easterling was born in 1932 in Hornsey, north London, where his father was an Anglican priest. He went to the City of London school, where he was actively involved in the life of the school and was Captain of School in his final year. He was in the generation that was required to do National Service and served in the Royal Engineers, spending time in Egypt a few years before the Suez crisis.**

He won a scholarship to study classics at Trinity College, Cambridge, starting his studies in 1952. Apart from a year at the University of Manchester he never left Cambridge. He became a fellow of Trinity College in 1958, ultimately serving as a Fellow for almost 63 years and becoming Senior Fellow in the process.

He taught classics and ancient philosophy for many years but probably his most significant contribution to Trinity College and Cambridge University was as a tutor and an administrator. He was admissions tutor and secretary to the college council at Trinity and spent the later part of his career as University Draftsman, responsible for curating the arcane rules which govern the university.

He met Patricia Fairfax when they were undergraduates

and they were married in 1956. They settled in the village of Cottenham, a few miles north of Cambridge where they lived in the same house for over 60 years. John was completely committed to enabling his wife to pursue her own academic career and he was very proud of her achievements - she was to become the first



woman to hold the post of Regius Professor of Greek at Cambridge University.

He is survived by his wife, his son Tom and his two grandchildren.



## Eric Thomas 1944 - 2021

Eric Thomas (Class of 1962) was born on May 20, 1944 and spent the remaining war years in Yorkshire with his mother, after which the family settled in Enfield. He attended the George Spicer primary school and started piano lessons at a young age, gaining a place at the Junior Royal Academy of Music at the age of 11, where he later attained his LRAM.

In 1955, he entered form N2A at CLS where he excelled at mathematics. He enjoyed games - captaining the School's 3rd XI at cricket and playing Eton Fives for the A team, among other sporting pursuits. He carried on his love of music in school, singing in the choir, joining choristers from the Chapel Choir and the Temple, and he started to learn the clarinet at the Guildhall School of Music - just across the road from the school - later joining the school orchestra. During his last year, he started to play the organ. Eric also enjoyed the CCF, something he carried into his university undergraduate days.

Eric won an Exhibition to study Mathematics at Jesus College Cambridge and obtained a 1st class honours degree in 1965. The following year he gained distinction in the Diploma of Computer Science. His life as an undergraduate was taken up with music and his love of the army.



Eric met his wife, Judy during his final degree year. They were married in Cambridge in September 1967 and settled in Grove, Wantage, Oxfordshire.

In 1966, Eric started work at the Atlas Laboratory, Chilton which later merged with the Rutherford Laboratory. He stayed there all his working life and was involved in numerous projects including the operating system for Sigma2, graphics, and office automation.

Sport took up a lot of his spare time. He played rounders and cricket for local teams but his great love was table tennis. He started playing in the Didcot and District Table Tennis Association (DDTTA) for Atlas in around 1970 and continued until recently. He obtained a qualification as a County Umpire for the English Table Tennis Association and was the DDTTA Closed Championship official umpire for many years.

In 1971 his son was born followed by a daughter in 1974. Eric was a great family man and was overjoyed when later, both his granddaughters were born.

Eric was a committed Christian and had a long association with Grove Methodist Church as Church treasurer for many years and also as the Church organist.

Ill health dogged him in later life. In 2020 he was diagnosed with oral cancer and had a successful operation to remove it, but it returned, and he died on May 14, 2021.

## John Gordon Lockwood 1924-2022

John Gordon Lockwood (Class of 1940) was born on 5 December 1924 in Wandsworth, London, to parents Ernest John Lockwood (1899-1980) and Ethel Dorothy Sweetman (née Sweetman) (1896-1988). He was followed a few years later by sister, Sheila Margaret (1928-1996).

At CLS John excelled at academics and sport, especially Rugby Union, swimming, cricket, and athletics. His parents had wanted John to continue his education at university level, but he opted instead to join the Royal Navy. John and his best friend were keen to do their bit for "king and country". His friend did not like the idea of potentially having a "watery grave" so chose to join the army instead. Sadly, John's friend ended up dying in battle. John served as a Signaller on two ships during the war, the HMS Malaya, and the HMS Kingsmill. On the former, John suffered severe burns on his body and arms after a torpedo struck the ship. On the latter, John was present at the D-Day Landings in June 1944 at Gold Beach when he was just 19 years old.

After the war, John joined Lloyd's of London as a Clerk in the Marine Salvage Department, but quickly rose to lead the whole of the department. In September 1952, John married Marjorie Blodwen Thurlow and together they had two



children; first came Anne Geraldine in July 1954, followed in January 1957 by Carole Margaret. The family lived together in Harrow and Wembley, Middlesex. John retired from Lloyd's in early 1984 and, together with Marjorie, relocated from London to the south coast, living in Aldwick Fields, West Sussex.

John loved the sea ever since his days in the Navy and would regularly walk miles along the coast from Aldwick to Bognor Regis, listening to the sound of the waves, once stating, "the rougher, the better". John was an avid reader, amassing a collection of hundreds of books on varying topics. He loved organ music and was known to travel to Chichester Cathedral just to hear the organist play.

John and his wife saw out their final years at a care home in Bognor Regis, West Sussex. He was devoted to Marjorie, who died on 12 January 2021, and John died just over a year later on 6 April 2022. He was 97 years old. His funeral was held at Chichester Crematorium on 26 April 2022. He leaves behind his daughters, Anne and Carole, and his grandson, Christian (who wrote this obituary), and a lifetime of love and memories.

## Richard Mutter 1965 - 2021

Richard Mutter (Class of 1982) joined CLS and The Temple Church choir at age 10 and performed numerous solos at The Temple Church, including the duo in 'Splendete TE' by Mozart on the reissue of the 1977 LP and on a subsequent 1996 CD set 'The Glory of the Temple Church Choir'. He won the Progress prize in 2B1 which was awarded to him by the Lord Mayor of London at a prizegiving ceremony. He was a Senior from 1978 and Head Boy from 1979-80.

After leaving school, Richard went to Swansea University to study IT and played squash for the University of Wales. He subsequently lived in Sicily for 18 months, learning Italian and teaching English. During an operetta



tour in Italy in 1987 with the company of Sandro Massimini, he visited many Italian locations.

Richard later moved to Toulouse and spent 18 months there, where he perfected his French and taught English, before moving back to the Hitchin area, living in Ashwell. Subsequently, he worked for Mercury, Pegasus, and then became head of HR IT at ING bank, moving later to HSBC. In 2012 he started working for Kainos as an HR IT and software consultant. Six years later he created his own consultancy firm and continued to work as a consultant until December 2019, when ill health prevented him from doing so.

He passed away peacefully on 16th August 2021 with his wife and two sons by his side.



## Conrad Colson 1988-2022

It is with the greatest sadness that we are letting everyone know that Conrad Colson passed away in March 2022.

Conrad was so loved by his friends and family and losing him in such an untimely manner has left us devastated.

Many of his best friendships were formed over 20 years ago at CLS in classrooms and between sneaky cigarettes behind the DT block. In those formative years at school, where everyone was struggling to find their authentic self, he was a mate without pretence. He had an amazing ability to be both shy and squarely at the centre of the chaos that boys whip up in their teens. His loyalty to his friends was intense and it was rare to have such an excellent listener amidst the years of teenage attention-seeking.

As we stepped up forms, he grew in confidence and chimed in with the timing of a comedic genius, saying the unrepeatably funniest thing you'd heard that day or week.

Back at CLS, Conrad often sought refuge in the art department - either painting in a cubicle or smoking on the roof. The teachers knew he was there, but gave him the space he needed to get away from everything when times were tough. And when he wasn't in the art block, the top playground was a highlight of his day. If anyone got to witness his menacing left boot, they know he could have played football for one of the CLS XIs, but it was an active choice of his to spend each week outplaying us in the "rejects" on Wednesday afternoons.

Conrad was a tremendous artist. The shoots of his interest in making music began in break times and developed over shared earphones wired into cd players on the central line after school. He enjoyed a fruitful creative spell of music production before university, going under the moniker - 'Inkliing'. Early in his journey, his music was heavily influenced by old-school hip-hop. This then graduated into more downtempo jazz and trip-hop stylings. His unique soundscapes were recognised when he featured on two Nightmares on Wax compilations and he released three further EPs - 'Inkliing', 'Bounce' and 'Generals'. As he matured in his 20s he experienced highs and lows that jolted him into experimenting with house and dance genres with particular euphoric / melancholic synth signatures. Not long before he died, he had created some of his most textured work. He had prepared for a rebrand for his next EP to be released simply under his own name - Conrad. This music is being mastered by some of his old friends and producers and we hope

it will be released in time.

A successful third sector career was built by Conrad following university. He was a prolific fundraiser and raised a total far exceeding a million pounds for charities such as Parkinson's, Shift.MS, Reprieve and Anna Freud Centre - a truly remarkable feat in such a short timespan. His choice in career and refusal to boast about the numbers, was a testament to his character - quietly helping vulnerable people and increasing visibility for those who were suffering under the radar. His colleagues noted he had such a gentle charm and yet was fearless in voicing his opinions on how to elevate the causes he championed.

When we met Conrad in the pub, as we did very frequently right up to his death, he was that rarest thing: curious about the lives of others, and humble about his own achievements. He was always there for us, lending an ear as we grew from teenage angst to near-middle age moaning. On the day he died it was a group of us who met at school who raised a glass and shed many a tear for him.

A part of his life that cannot be ignored is that Conrad had long struggled with a debilitating mental illness called Body Dysmorphic Disorder (BDD). It was a battle that began in his teenage years and had pervaded his normal adult life. Whilst his death was a shock, the more his friends have learnt about the condition he suffered from,

the more it is understood how much danger he was in. Conrad knew he might be able to support other sufferers of BDD and used his free time to raise money for a tiny charity that helped him immensely over the years - Body Dysmorphic Disorder Foundation (BDDF). By all accounts, Conrad was vocal with his experiences at support groups to let others know they were not alone and this provided strength to many BDD sufferers. As his friends we want to be open about the fact that Conrad killed himself, and that suicide is something we need to talk more about.

Conrad's friends are channeling efforts to continue his work by raising awareness of Body Dysmorphia, talking openly about suicide, and raising cash for BDDF. Please do get in touch with the CLS alumni team for more details.

We will miss Conrad for all time.

Raman Kamboh (Class of 2006)



## John Adrian Millbourn 1933-2021 (CLS Staff 1974 - 1993)

John, who died in June 2021 at the age of 87, was master in charge of rowing and a geography teacher at CLS from 1974-1993.

Before becoming a teacher in the late 1960s, John worked for an engineering business in the UK and South Africa but was always most interested in rowing.

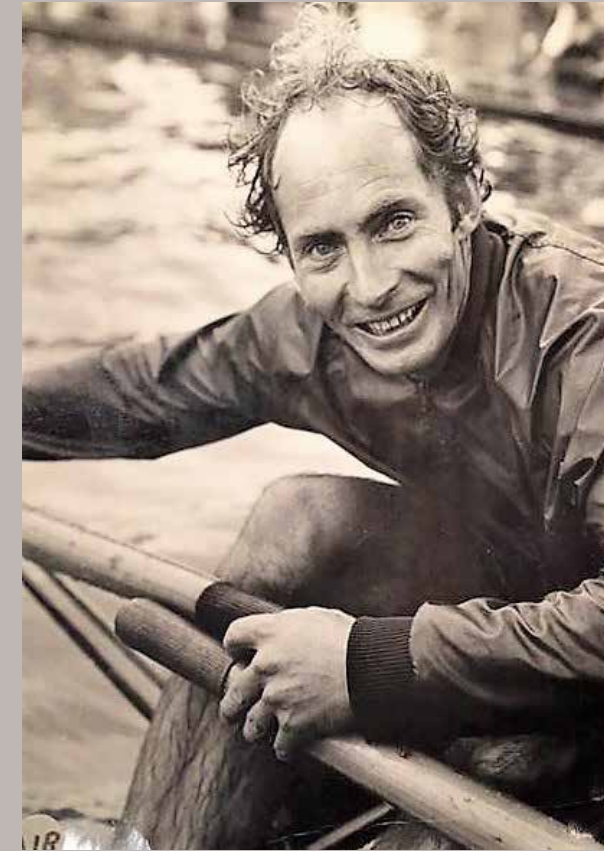
A one-year teaching attachment to Monkton Combe School gave him a keenness for school life.

In 1969 John returned to Trinity College, Oxford where he had gained an undergraduate degree, to get his Dip. Ed. and, more importantly, to coach the college's first eight. Thereafter he moved to London, and after a brief stint at St Paul's School, moved to Emanuel School, where he would spend the next five years, teaching geography and coaching rowing, including one eight which included a set of triplets!

When John came to CLS in 1974, it was as an experienced teacher and hardened oarsman - though he claimed that his mere eleven stone as an Oxford undergraduate disqualified him from the university blue boat.

CLS Boat Club, under his tutelage, entered a halcyon period, in which the highlight was trouncing the Eton eight at Henley.

He led School rowers to Holland, France and Israel, and was himself a competitor in the Venetian voga longa, a sculling race around the



lagoon. Few of our staff were as well-travelled. Although weaker souls groaned under JAM's punishing geography homework loads, they acknowledged the eventual good results.

John took two sabbaticals whilst at CLS. The first of these involved racing Gipsy Moth V to Australia and Hong Kong (where he taught Gurkhas English) and the second took him overland to the East where four months in India compensated for missing the Whitbread Round The World Race.

John retired from CLS in 1993 and post-retirement, he lived on a farm in Ashmore on the Wiltshire/Dorset border, where he involved himself in the local community and took a very real interest in farming and country life.

Shortly before he died, John moved to Henley to be closer to family and the epicentre of rowing.

John is survived by his sister Suzi in South Africa, his three children Anna, David and Katie, six grandchildren Alice, Louis, Yasmin, Luca, Oliver and Edward, and by his niece and nephews in South Africa, Nicola, Duncan and Mark.

**Thanks go to John's son, David, for his involvement in this obituary and Jonathan Keates (former staff member) for the original valette for John, produced in 1993, which forms some of this obituary.**



Paul Zetter 1923 - 2021

‘Doing the pools’ was a ubiquitous part of the social life of the UK for much of the 20th century. Littlewoods, Vernons and Zettters were household names, enabling anyone and everyone to make a small bet on the outcome of football matches each Saturday of the season, and dream of winning the elusive ‘jackpot’.

Paul Zetter, who has died aged 98, took over running Zettters from his father Syd who had started the business in 1933. Born in the East End, Paul attended City from 1934-1940, and was one of the Marlborough evacuees. On leaving the School he became a bank clerk in the City, joined the Home Guard and then enlisted in the Royal Armoured Corps. He was seconded to the Control Commission in Germany at the end of the war. When he was demobbed in 1947, Paul joined the family firm. Under his leadership the firm expanded, obtained a full listing on the Stock Exchange, and added betting shops, bingo halls, hotel and cinemas. Paul’s shares in the business were sold after his retirement.

Pools firms forged strong charitable links and Paul, as chairman of Zettters, was in the vanguard. He chaired the Sports

Aid Foundation (now Sports Aid) for a decade from its launch in 1976, winning sponsorship – much needed in the pre-National Lottery era - for many leading sports stars including Sebastian Coe, Torvill and Dean and swimmers David Wilkie and Sharron Davies. He also served on the Sports Council and the Foundation for Sports and Arts. He was awarded the CBE in 1981 for his services to sport.

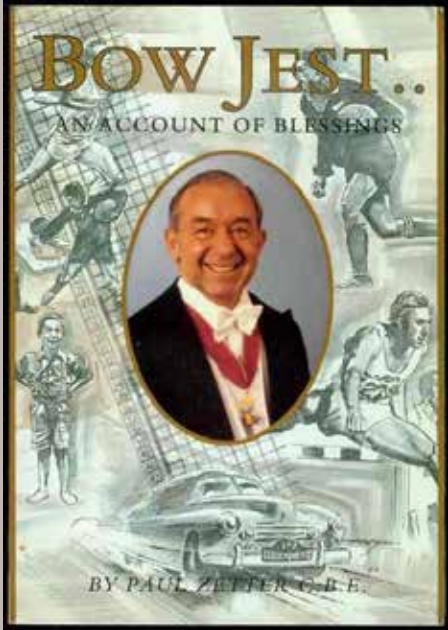
Paul’s sporting interests were wide. He competed in the Monte Carlo Rally, and was an enthusiastic, though never hugely successful, racehorse owner, with his local track, Fontwell in Sussex, being his favourite venue. At the age of 89 he carried one of the 2012 Olympic torches through his local village of Duncton.

Paul never lost his links with City and he was President of the JCC in 1987-8. In later life he wrote poetry and novels, and in 1992 he published a memoir, ‘Bow Jest’, “the story of a man who has had a happy life

and who has brought much happiness to others”. The foreword was written by an old friend, Sir Dennis Thatcher.

Paul leaves a son and daughter and four grandchildren. His wife, Helen Lore Morgenstern, of a German-Jewish refugee family, died in 2019. They were married for 65 years.

Bruce Todd



In memoriam ...

- Michael Grose (Class of 1949)
- Patrick Johnson (Class of 1949)
- Geoffrey Gilbey (Class of 1950)
- Michael Read (Class of 1950)
- Martin McKeand (Class of 1952)
- Neil Grant Porter (Class of 1967)
- Martin Evans (Class of 1968)
- Tony Gamlin (Class of 1972)
- Matthew Green (Class of 1977)
- Amit Bhasin (Class of 1985)

Martin Henry Simonis  
1949 - 2022

Martin passed away on 23 July 2022, aged 73. Diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in June 2020, he fought a brave battle, outliving his initial prognosis by 18 months.

Martin’s working career was as an IT Consultant, but he continued to enjoy various sports throughout his life, from rugby and squash in the early days to only finally putting down his golf clubs and tennis racquet a few weeks before he died. After taking early retirement in 2009 he took up voluntary work editing the Mosaic Synagogue magazine and becoming Membership Secretary and then Treasurer of his tennis club.

He is deeply missed by Sandie, his wife for 51 years, sons Kevin and Daniel, daughters-in-law Clare and Gigi, grandchildren Gabriella and Oliver, and his sister Hazel, all of whom he loved so much, as they did him.



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Due care is taken to ensure that the content of the Gazette is accurate, but the JCC and Karen Sage do not accept liability for omissions or errors.





**Recollections of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II – Air Marshall Sir  
David Walker KCVO, OBE, DL.**

**CLS 1967-74, President JCC 2011-2012**

The Queen was a great constant in our lives and one we all took somewhat for granted, even though her recently increasing frailty was evident. The news of her death was a shock which resounded across the planet.

I had the good fortune to know HM well. From 1989 to 1992 I was her Equerry, and from 2005 until 2013 I was Master of the Royal Household. In my military career I have worked for some excellent people, but I have never had a better “boss” than The Queen. She was a marvellous human being. Made more so by her conviction that whilst she was the holder of an extraordinary duty, she was herself rather ordinary. In that, of course, she was completely wrong. Considerate, decisive, and courageous, she loved to laugh and make others do so. Possessing an intense curiosity, she was the most exceptional listener and would often reflect at the end of the day on the things she had learned during its course.

I was privileged to have a part in the State Funeral. Somehow, it did not seem so sombre. It was a fitting tribute to someone we will hold dear for the remainder of our lives.



**The John  
Carpenter  
Club**

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