

THE OLD OUNDELIAN

2019-2020

REUNIFICATION

On the tenth anniversary of the formal unification of Oundle School and Laxton School, Philip Sloan (LS 71) gives a historical perspective

Iain Farrington (C 95) on pop and jazz, Horrible Histories, and making classical music accessible to all

Brian Hemingway (St A 70) writes about his father, Paddy, the last surviving Battle of Britain fighter pilot

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The President

Charles Miller (Ldr 76) reflects on his extraordinary first year at the helm.

2020 has been an extraordinary year for so many. The School adapted to the online reality and education of the pupils continued, albeit in a very different format.

The Club remains strong and whilst most of its activities have been either postponed or cancelled, we continue to look at how we can remain relevant to our 11,000 members. The Club is inclusive and the Committee are always looking at ways of engaging with members and encouraging participation. Its "inclusiveness" is naturally limited by the fact that membership is only open to former pupils of the School. Its membership has therefore been set by the School admissions policy over many decades.

The role of the Club is simple. It was set up in 1883 to encourage good

fellowship amongst Old Oundelians and to further the interests and prosperity of the School. I am part of a long line of Presidents who have tried to ensure that the Club lives up to those ideals.

Earlier this year, over 900 predominantly young OOs wrote to the School about its attitudes to the past in the light of the murder of George Floyd and the emergence of the Black Lives Matter movement. It raised serious points and caused many to examine their own views and attitudes.

It also shows a willingness to consider others, and this is precisely what the Club should be encouraging. In December, we launched the OO Network which now has over 1,500 users. It is a forum for keeping in touch and exchanging views with House and year group sections as well as offers

of help with jobs and mentoring.

I believe that most OOs are altruistic and wish to make a difference to the lives of others. Many young people have had their lives blighted by the consequences of the global pandemic and the loss of opportunity. Rather than trying to solve all the problems, I would like to suggest one small practical step in the spirit of Good Fellowship. There are a large number of OOs either with their own businesses or in senior positions within various organisations. Please would you consider offering internships, mentoring or other advice via the OO Network.

All has not been lost this year: **Arthur Marmont** (D 77) organised the Multisports weekend just before lockdown, with over 100 OOs taking part. I attended the Over 60s lunch at The RAF Club with over 60 OOs including Bob and Jenny Briggs as my guests.

Unfortunately we have had to cancel the London Dinner at the Institution of Civil Engineers in Great George Street but we have rescheduled it for Thursday 18th November 2021. The Institution of Civil Engineers is the senior engineering institution and its building is magnificent. The Dinner will be held in the Great Hall.

It has been difficult managing the Club this year and I would particularly like to thank our Secretary, Jane Fenton, for all her hard work during this difficult time. I am also indebted to vice presidents, Alastair Irvine and Chris Piper.

Please do get involved with the Club, whether by attending events, playing sport or helping other OOs. We are always looking for new ideas, new people and ways to engage with our membership. If you would like to become more involved, please speak to Jane or email me. ■



The Secretary

Jane Fenton encourages us to re-connect with OO Network friends

When I was pondering what to write for this column I thought that there wouldn't be very much to report on as the OO Club office has been closed since the middle of March due to you-know-what. Almost all the admin staff at the School have been working from home, myself included, (see photo) and many of our usual OO and Oundle Society activities have been put on hold. Thinking about it, however, I realised that a lot actually has happened since I last wrote to you.

We held our usual convivial annual West Sussex dinner at the Squire and Horse in Bury, near Pulborough in November, followed by the OO London Dinner at the Honourable Artillery Company. This was the last major event for 2019 President, Alastair Irvine (Sc 81), and I'm sure he will agree that the HAC did us proud and enabled him to sign off his presidential year in style.

Also in November the dedication of the bell donated to the Chapel in memory of the centenary of the First World War took place at the Remembrance Sunday service. The President unveiled a plaque on which are inscribed the words 'The Bell of Peace; Donated by the Old Oundelian Club in memory of all Old Oundelians and staff who have given their life in the service of their country. Dedicated on Remembrance Day 2019. God grant grace.'

January 2020 saw the installation of **Charles Miller** (Ldr 76) as President. In normal circumstances Charles would have expected a whirlwind twelve months of OO social events, committee meetings, travelling etc. In fact he has participated in one committee meeting, one lunch and the Multisports weekend! Which is not to say that he hasn't been busy – he

has, but his tenure has been more concerned with the administration of the Club and agreeing how to manage all the various problems and complications that this year has thrown up. Because of this, it has been decided that Charles will continue as President for 2021 and hopefully he will be able to enjoy a more typical year than this year has been. **Alastair Irvine** and **Chris Piper** (Sc 71) have also agreed to serve a further year as Vice Presidents.

The Multisports weekend took place as planned during the first weekend of March and was very successfully organised by **Arthur Marment** (D 77) with able assistance from **Al Gordon** (C 69). There are so many moving parts to this event that it always seems impossible that it will come together in any coherent form but it always does and it's always very enjoyable. Unfortunately, the Coronavirus restrictions were just coming into force over this weekend which meant that we weren't able to take part in the final lunch and presentation of the trophy on Sunday but this didn't detract from the fact that the OOs won 7.5 to 3.5 after several years of School triumphs. Thanks to everyone who helped to organise teams and venues for both the OOs and the School. Particular thanks to the School's Director of Sport, Nick Beasant, as well as to Arthur and Al.

Our last event before the world closed down was the Over 60s' lunch, held on 9 March in the RAF Club as usual. Since then we have had to forego the OO Sports lunch, the June OO Committee meeting, the Oundle Society Henley reception and Edinburgh drinks. Nor have we been able to celebrate the 30 Years of Co-education alongside the School but it is planned that this will take place next year instead.



One particularly timely and successful initiative that we have instigated is the introduction of the OO Network as mentioned in the President's column. This is an online platform solely for Old Oundelians that allows you to contact old friends, offer or seek help with careers and post and read OO news. Activity has increased hugely during the lockdown, suggesting that people are looking to reconnect with their schooldays and friends while they have the time and opportunity to do so. If you haven't signed up yet can I suggest that you give it a look at oonetwork.org.uk

Finally, I hope that you and your loved ones have kept well during this unusual time and I hope to see you before too long at an OO occasion. We'll have a lot to make up for! ■

The Editor

'2020 is the year for making the best of it...'

Simon Redfern's (Sc 75) intelligent editorship has, over the last five years, improved the style and content of *The Old Oundelian*, but this year there's had to be a shift in balance. *Kiln Theatre, The Water House Project, Conducting under Covid* and *Keeping Music Alive* all have important messages for these times. I'm sorry there's so little about sport, because I know that's what so many of you look for first, but **Arthur Marmont** (D 77), in his inimitable style, has provided a Multisports round-up. OO golf matches were another covid-casualty, though reports of a mini-golf course in the grounds of St A were well-founded. I did spot four recent OOs on the Oundle course doing the 72-hole Macmillan challenge (p 65). After a little chat on the 9th, it emerged that they had bigger plans. They finished 90 holes with panache. Typical Oundelians, making the best of it.

Hearing so many of your voices has been an absolute pleasure. It's touching to read in *The Class of 2010* that so many of you talk to - and often, apparently, live with - each other. There's no consistent 'voice' in this edition, though: it's a mixture of young and old, female and male, more music and, of necessity, less sport. In our lead article, **Philip Sloan** (LS 71) chronicles the history of the Schools on the anniversary of their reunification, prompting reflection on the impact of the vision of Sir William and Lady Laxton on the town of Oundle and on the lives of those educated here over the past 450 years. What more can be said about dedication to the OO cause than that Philip has twice read Walker's *A History of the Oundle Schools*? I'm very grateful, too, that **Steve Carr** (S 84), well-known golf course photographer, was generous enough to take our splendid cover

photograph.

While teaching here, I've come across many recent OOs, but the first time I met a senior branch in group formation was one Sunday morning in 2015. Alerted by a noise from the hallway, I apprehended some chaps half-way up my staircase. On being challenged in a not entirely friendly manner (surely my house looks like a private residence? It has sofas and everything....) they weren't to be put off. 'Oh, this is the Music School, isn't it? We had lessons here. Can we look upstairs?' They had lots of stories.

Last Sunday, five years later almost to the day, another group came to the door. They knocked, this time. They'd travelled from Southampton on the off-chance that ninety-year-old Rita, daughter of Maude and Arthur Stafford, servants of the school for sixty years, could look around. Lots more stories, and she promised to write them down. That's what a publication like this is, really - stories about people, places and events which have had an impact on us.

Discovering OO reticence has been a bit of a surprise. I repeatedly asked for cheery photographs from correspondents, but few were forthcoming, so some of the pages are a little grey. Of those pictures which did emerge of OOs engaged in activity, as requested (grinning doesn't count) there's a neatly symbolic one of the President at the helm. The picture above, by the way, isn't one of me masquerading as Old Spice or a UKIP aficionado. It was taken at the West Street VE celebration organised by Hon OO Douglas Butler - a lockdown making-the-best-of-it highlight.

The thirtieth anniversary of co-education, in tune with the School's postponed celebration, will feature



in next year's publication, so pages 62-65 are only a preview. Also to be covered next year, with emphasis on the measures Oundle has put in place, is the ongoing campaign to 'make Oundle an anti-racist school' whose importance to so many of you is indicated by the fact that a tenth of all OOs signed up to it.

It hasn't been a stroll on the Chapel lawns to put this edition together. Editorial committee meetings couldn't happen; no-one was particularly keen to 'zoom', few advertisers wanted to commit to expenditure, and a lack of access to technology wasn't ideal - so it has been less of a team effort than we'd all have liked. I'm indebted to **Mark Moore** (Sc 68) for his amusingly irritated proofreading asides, and to **Jane Fenton** for her knowledge and good sense. **Elsbeth Langsdale**, as well as her excellent archive research, has given us a charming, uplifting story heard, by chance, on the radio in lockdown Ireland. Do tell me the stories you'd like to read about. Better still, write one for submission - and send that picture. ■

Megan Smedley



Reunification of the Schools

Back to a Shared Tradition

Philip Sloan, Laxton Grammar School 1964-71, Head of School 1970 and President of the Old Oundelian Club 2017, gives a historical perspective of the relationship between the two Oundle schools.

UNIFICATION

5 October 2020 marks the tenth anniversary of the formal unification of the two historic Schools of Oundle - Oundle School and Laxton School. Until then there were two distinct entities, both charities registered under the Charities Acts. The first was 'The Corporation of Oundle School (Charity)' (Oundle School), the charity that owned and ran Oundle School and continues to do so. The second was 'The Free Grammar School of Sir William Laxton' (Laxton School), which owned the historic endowments left by Sir William Laxton in 1556, most notably the Laxton School building. After 5

October 2010 there was only one. By then the activities of the Schools had been fully integrated and, with the consent of the Charity Commission, all of the assets of Laxton School had been transferred to Oundle School. On that day the name of Laxton School was removed from the Register of Charities and it ceased to exist as a legal entity.

From a practical point of view, in the day-to-day running of the Schools, unification was more a process rather than a single event – a long process that can be traced back to the early 1970s. Later on, this article sets out the milestones but, as the full significance of unification can only properly be appreciated in the context ►

▲ Watercolour by J Bringhurst (OO) – 1799, showing the Schoolmaster's House built in 1763

◀ of the historical origins of the two Schools, these are explored first.

ORIGINS

The origins of Oundle School and Laxton School lie in an earlier time of disease - repeated visitations of bubonic plague in the 14th Century including the Black Death of 1349 which are together reckoned to have caused the death of at least half of the population of England. The intense suffering led to a strong religious revival expressed in the building of many churches, and to the establishment of many religious guilds (original spelling, used throughout), co-operative ventures licensed by the Crown for establishing chantries where masses would be held and prayers given by a chantry priest for the souls of the founders and 'brethren and sisters' of the guild after death. The priest was also a teacher with particular responsibility for teaching Latin.

One such guild, 'the Guild or Fraternity of the Blessed Virgin Mary' ('the Oundle Guild') was formed in Oundle in around 1494 by Dame Joan Wyatt, the widow of Robert Wyatt, a local merchant. The chantry chapel of the Oundle Guild was the chapel then and now on the south side of the chancel in the Oundle Parish Church, the Church of St Peter. The purpose of the Oundle Guild was to celebrate mass' ... for the healthy estate of the King and ... Queen in life and for their souls after death, and for the souls of their ancestors, for the healthy estate of the brethren and sisters of the Guild in life and for their souls after death, for the soul of Robert Wyatt, for the good estate of Joan Wyatt in life and for her soul after death and for the souls of all the faithful departed.'

The Oundle Guild received substantial endowments of money, houses and arable land, among them the Guildhouse – the ancient building on the site of the present Laxton building. The ground floor was used to house a number of widows rent free, the upper floor as a schoolroom.

More trauma was to follow in the 16th century. In 1546, following dissolution of the monasteries and

the seizure and squandering of their assets, Henry VIII went on to seize other religious establishments including many guilds, the Oundle Guild among them. Some schools, including the Oundle Guild School, were allowed to continue but, as the rest of the assets of the Oundle Guild were expropriated, it had no endowment or means of support.

Sir William Laxton was born in Oundle, it is believed in 1500. He was the son of an Oundle merchant or tradesman and is believed to have attended the Oundle Guild School and then to have been apprenticed to a member of the Grocers' Company. Sir William pursued a successful career in the City of London. He was a prominent Grocer – elected as Upper Master of the Grocers' Company eight times - an Alderman and a sheriff. In 1544 he was elected Mayor of the City of London. In the mid-1530s he married Joan Luddington (née Kirkeby) a widow and mother of seven children. They had no children of their own.

Sir William fell ill and died in July 1556. Following the seizure of the assets of the Oundle Guild in 1546 the continued existence of the Guild School was in doubt. In the years before he became ill, Sir William laid plans for its purchase and re-endowment and for the Grocers' Company to take over responsibility for running it after his death. Shortly before he died he made a will and, in a separate, unsigned, codicil drawn up a few days later, gave directions for his wishes to be carried out. In a few simple words he gave guidance for the ethos of the School going forwards, providing for the appointment of a schoolmaster to run it, stating that he should be

'... a Master of Arts, to teach Grammar freely within the said Schoolhouse to all such as shall come thither to learn...'

The codicil also provided for seven poor men of Oundle to be provided for and housed in the lower floor of the Schoolhouse.

From the beginning, Sir William's vision was of a school rooted in Oundle, existing for the benefit of

The porch on the south side of the Oundle Parish Church, known as the Wyatt porch, was built by Dame Joan Wyatt and her husband Robert Wyatt, probably in the 1480s. It was traditional for chantry priests to teach Latin in a room above a church porch. It is likely therefore that this served as the schoolroom in the very early years of the Oundle Guild School.

the local community but also open to others without geographic limitation. In the opening paragraphs of his codicil Sir William expressed the wish that it be called '.... the free Grammar School of me the said William Laxton, Knight, Alderman of London.'

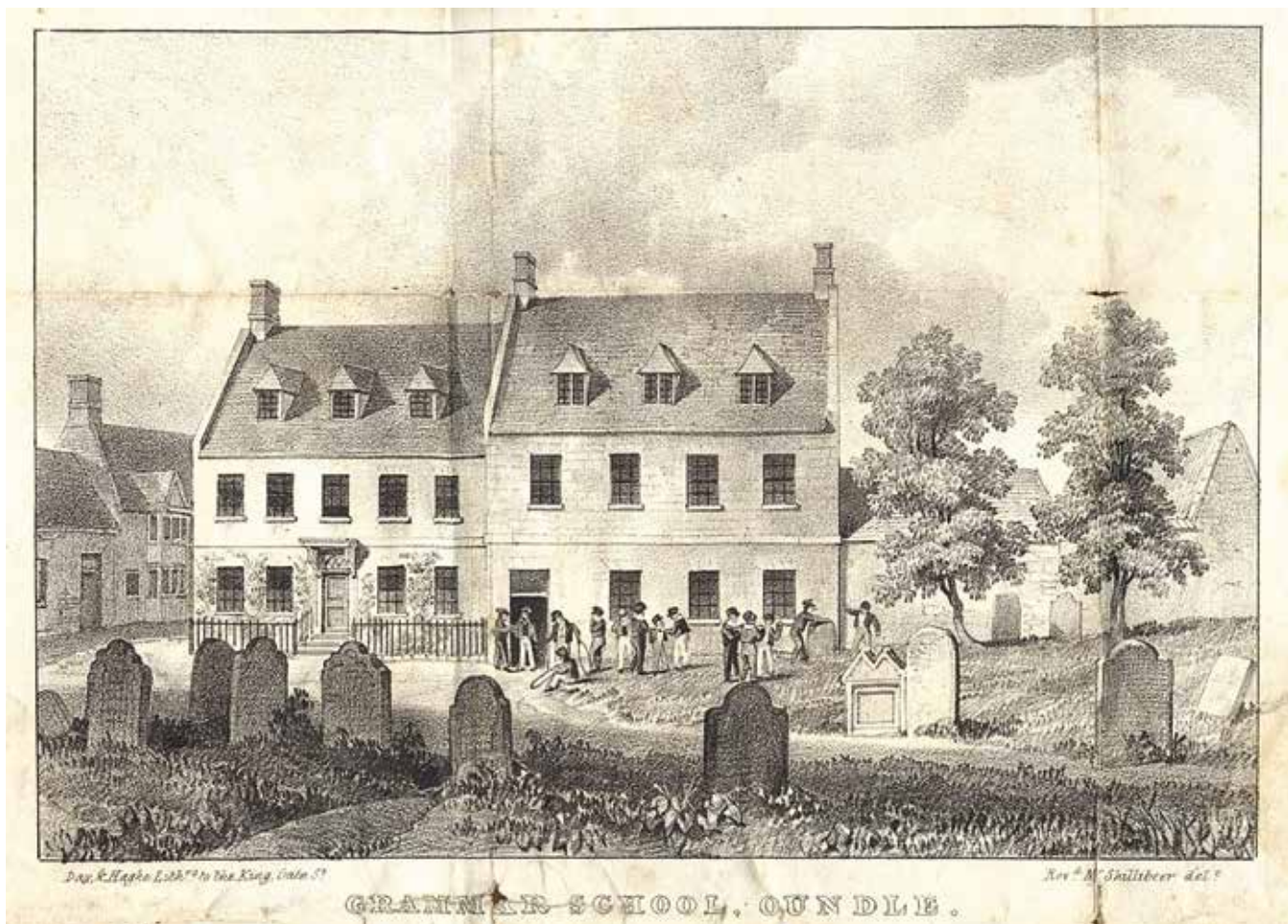
After his death, Lady Laxton bought the Schoolhouse (for £20). Others had expressed interest and for a time it was by no means certain that she would secure the purchase. In the years that followed, the Grocers' Company took over ownership of the School and its endowments which included other land and buildings in Oundle and elsewhere. There was a legal challenge to the validity of the codicil which was eventually overcome. As for Sir William's wishes that the School be named after him, its formal name was 'The Free Grammar School of Sir William Laxton'. It was also known from an early stage, at least colloquially, as 'Oundle School'.

From the endowment of the School

and in the centuries that followed, the Schoolhouse was its heart. In accordance with Sir William's wishes, the ground floor was used to house seven poor men of the town and the upper floor was the schoolroom. The Schoolhouse was already old, poorly constructed and in frequent need of repair. The religious needs of the School were met by attendance at services in the Oundle Parish Church.

In a typical year in the early 1600s, pupil numbers averaged around 60. Some lived in Oundle, others in surrounding areas and others again boarded, residing either with the schoolmaster or other town residents. It was a time of relative social mobility and pupils included the sons of local tradesmen, lawyers and members of the clergy and the nobility both locally and from further afield. As the century progressed, the Grocers' Company and the School were again buffeted by winds of change - gales would be a better

▼ Drawing by J Shillibeer, Headmaster 1829-41, showing the new boarding house built in 1799





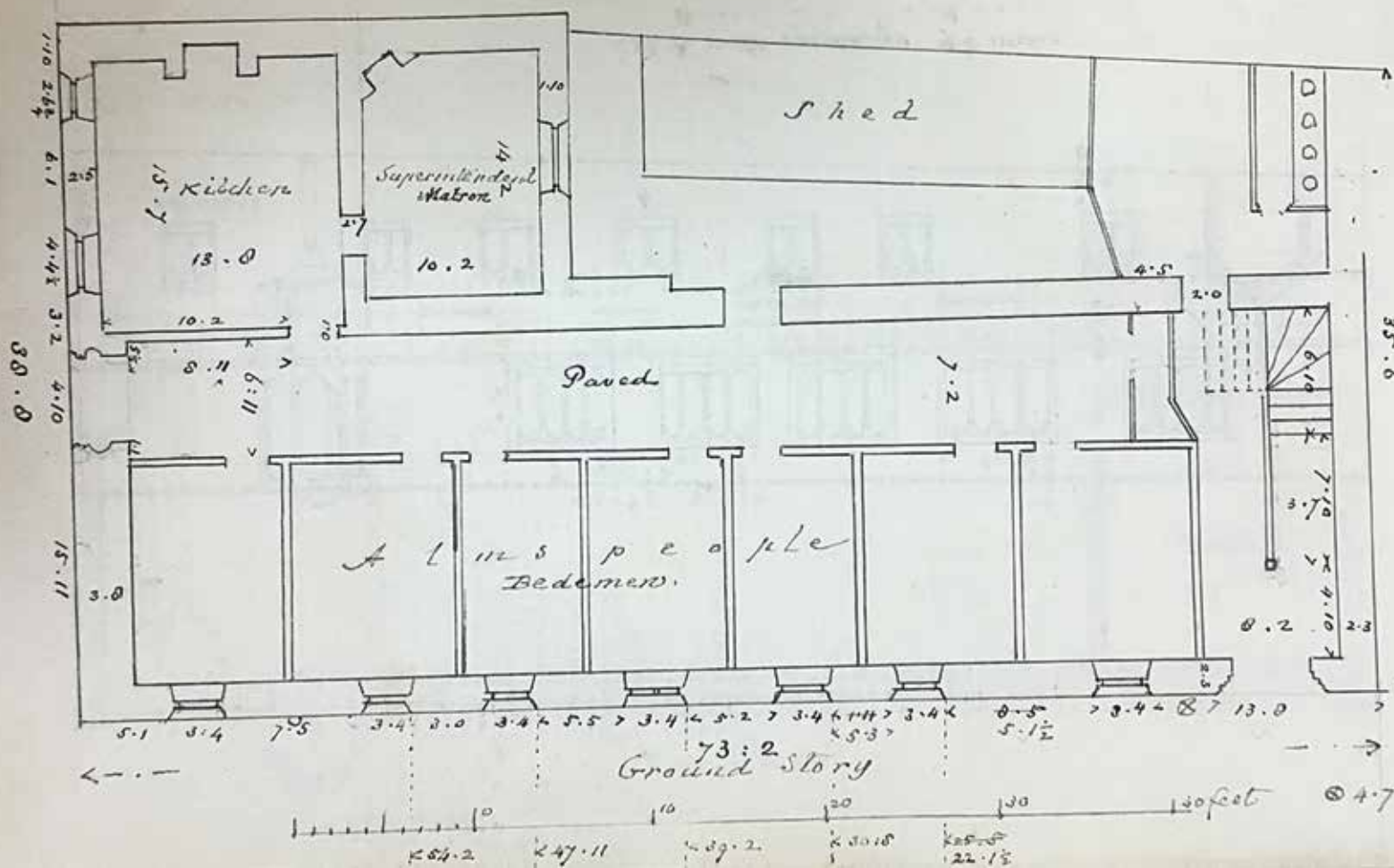
◀ description. The English Civil War, its consequences and the divisions it caused as well as ‘loans’ demanded both by King and Parliament, but often not repaid, all impacted financially and in other respects on the Grocers’ Company and the School. Then, following the Restoration of the monarchy in 1660, came the Plague in 1665 and, in 1666, the Great Fire of London which destroyed most of the London buildings owned by the Grocers’ Company, including all the London properties bequeathed by Sir William Laxton. The fire also severely damaged Grocers’ Hall, leaving only its walls intact.

The debts and liabilities arising from these events could have been, and nearly were, terminal for both the Grocers’ Company and the School. However, good fortune intervened. The Bank of England was founded in 1694, its first governor being Sir John Houblon, a Grocer and Master of the Grocers’ Company in 1690. Arrangements were made

for Grocers’ Hall once restored to be rented to the Bank allowing the debts and liabilities eventually to be cleared, though not until the mid-1730s.

The 1700s saw a decline in education in general and, reflecting a lower regard for the studying of Latin, of grammar schools in particular. Nevertheless, by the end of the century, pupil numbers, particularly of boarders, were increasing and further investments were made in school buildings to accommodate them. In 1763 a new schoolmaster’s house was built on the corner of Church Lane and the churchyard, and in 1799 an extension was added to it as a dormitory for boarders. The outward appearance of these ‘new’ additions remains largely unchanged to this day, though their internal layouts and the uses to which they have since been put are of course very different. Once their original purposes are recalled, it will readily be appreciated that, in their

▲ Lithograph of the Old Gildhouse by Bradford Rudge – 1841 – before it was rebuilt in 1855. Note the walnut trees, an historic feature of this part of the churchyard



▲ Drawing of ground floor of Old Gildhouse by J Gwilt, the Grocers' Company surveyor, in 1850

orientation around the churchyard, which also served as a playground, they were intended to complement the existing elements of the School.

As time passed the condition of the old Schoolhouse continued to deteriorate necessitating frequent repairs. In 1816, the Grocers' Company's surveyor recommended its demolition. Eventually a decision was taken to rebuild it in the style and substantially to the design of the original, the building work being completed in 1855. Prior to its commencement, drawings were made of the original Schoolhouse. They show the layout of the ground floor, still used to house seven poor men of Oundle, and the old Schoolroom on the upper floor.

In 1855, therefore, there was still just one school – the 'Free Grammar School of Sir William Laxton' known by then also as Oundle School and Oundle Grammar School. The heart of the School was, and since 1556 (arguably since 1494) had been, the

old Schoolhouse. Its spiritual home was the Oundle Parish Church. Pupils attending the School included, as they had for centuries before, day boys from Oundle and the surrounding area as well as boarders from further afield.

By the mid-19th century, England was the centre of a large and expanding empire and of an industrial revolution, symbolised in Oundle by the coming of the railway in 1845. Though many continued to follow traditional trades and occupations such as farming, there was a growing need for a university-educated elite. In schooling terms this led to diverging aspirations. For those wishing to go to university - day boys from Oundle and surrounding areas but for the most part boarders from further afield - it meant staying on at school to age 18 or 19 and learning Latin and Greek (the grammar subjects) to a high level, as well as maths and newer science subjects. For the sons of farmers or tradesmen, a more limited education to age 15 or

◀ 16 was enough. For them, at a time of limited social mobility, there was little or no point in continuing Latin, Greek or indeed any other subject to university level. The Grocers' Company began to consider ways of addressing these differing aspirations, including the possibility of separating the School into two parts. One, a 'Classical' part, would provide education to university entrance level in subjects including Greek and Latin, maths and sciences. The other, a 'Modern' part, would provide a limited, more practical, education to age 15 or 16.

In 1876, a new Headmaster - Henry St John Reade - was appointed, taking over from Dr J.F. Stansbury. Believing (wrongly it seems) that a decision to divide the School into two had already been taken by the Grocers' Company, he proceeded to put it into effect. One part, later to be known as Oundle School, was to be

'the Classical School'; the other, later known as Laxton Grammar School, was to be 'the Modern School'. The two schools began their separate existence in September 1876.

In the years leading up to 1876, the Grocers' Company had acquired more property in Oundle including the whole of the 'island' site on the north side of Church Lane, later used for the construction of the Oundle Cloisters. The intention was for the Classical School to move there once building was complete and for the Modern School to take over the rebuilt old Schoolhouse. These arrangements were completed in 1883. In the intervening years, the Modern School occupied temporary accommodation elsewhere in Oundle and the Classical School the rebuilt Schoolhouse.

Although there was unanimous agreement within the Grocers' Company on the need for expansion, and for the provision of both Classical

Over the centuries, the School has often been closed temporarily because of epidemics of disease. Contagions have included bubonic plague, smallpox, diphtheria, dysentery, typhus, typhoid, measles, mumps, scarlet fever, chicken pox and no doubt others. Some were associated with the water supply which was drawn from wells located close to the churchyard at a time when it was still being used for new burials.



and Modern levels of schooling, unanimity was still lacking on how this was to be achieved. Proposals by Headmaster Reade in 1881 for increases to school fees led to the belief on the part of some Oundle town residents that the interests of the local community were not being properly respected. This was a matter of concern to the Grocers' Company and in 1882 consideration was given to two alternative schemes. One involved retention of the two school system already introduced by Headmaster Reade, the other a single school system which would provide both Classical and Modern education within the same school. The fundamental difference was that the two school system was intended to draw boarding pupils from a wide catchment area - effectively the whole country and beyond. The single school alternative on the other hand would have a more localised

catchment area, catering especially 'for the sons of needy professional men' with far fewer boarders.

Ultimately, given the expansion of school facilities already underway by 1882, the viability of the single school alternative depended on a substantial increase in the number of suitable local pupils. The conclusion drawn at the time was that, as the town of Oundle was not growing, such an increase was unlikely to materialise. The Grocers' Company therefore decided to reaffirm the two school system, addressing the concerns of Oundle townsfolk by making provision for locally born boys to pass into the Classical School on a financially favourable basis

It is interesting to reflect for a moment on how the decision of the Grocers' Company in 1882 might have been different if girls as well as boys had been eligible in 1876 to join a single school. The situation would

▼ Photograph of Laxton House taken in July 2020. Note the remains of an ancient walnut tree lying in front of the north entrance.



◀ then in some ways have been similar to that 125 years later when a single school solution was again adopted and the separation of 1876 reversed. The thought may not be entirely idle and could have crossed the minds of the Grocers' Company in its deliberations at the time. By the late 19th century, increased attention was being given to girls' education and in 1905 the Grocers' Company actively considered the possibility of opening a girls' school in Oundle. The idea was eventually rejected because it was thought likely to lead to co-education - a concept apparently before its time.

From 1876, the two schools began their separate development. In 1877 there were 94 boys in the Classical School, 70 of whom were boarders, 24 dayboys. In the Modern School, numbers totalled 34, 18 day boys and 16 boarders. It is often forgotten that Laxton Grammar School also had boarders drawn from towns in more distant parts of Northamptonshire such as Kettering and Wellingborough. At a time when travel was difficult and time consuming, this made sense but, as convenient motor transport became more prevalent, the original purpose of boarding was lost and the Laxton Grammar School boarding house was closed in 1929.

Although outside the scope of this piece, the history of Laxton Grammar School - Laxton School as it later became - in the years between 1876 and 2010 is interesting in its own right and should be told and remembered. However, unlike Oundle School which could draw students from far and wide, its principal and more limited purpose was to meet the needs of the town of Oundle and its immediate surrounds. As Oundle School grew in the 20th century, Laxton Grammar School could only continue to plough a steady course without the prospect of significant expansion.

Left entirely to its own devices, Laxton Grammar School might well have declined into insignificance. However, despite the split in 1876, the two schools were never totally separate. Many facilities were

shared, something that worked to the advantage of Laxton Grammar School and its pupils. Foremost among these was the arrangement by which academically suited pupils were integrated for teaching purposes into Oundle School forms from age 16 onwards - and then often on to university in the same way as their Oundle School contemporaries. Many friendships were made between members of the two Schools though there was, of course, also plenty of 'banter'.

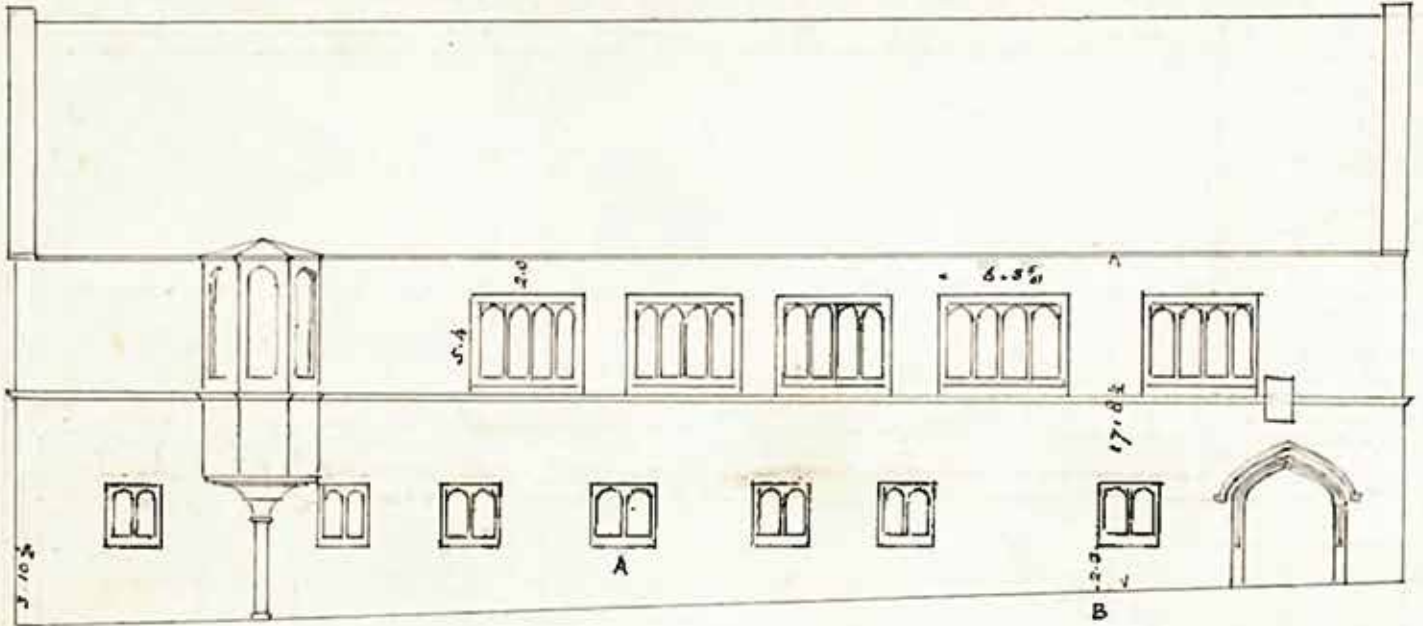
Sport was integrated in 1992. Until then, Laxton Grammar School had its own sports teams and House sports competition. There were three Laxton Houses: Ireland (named after the first Schoolmaster in the Oundle Gild School); Wyatt (no further explanation needed) and Leech (SJ Leech was Master in Charge of Laxton Grammar School from 1919 to 1952). Though lacking in numbers, Laxton Grammar School sports teams had indomitable spirit and frequently overcame the representative teams of much larger schools including Oundle School itself.

One of Laxton Grammar School's singular achievements after 1876 was to preserve the historic traditions of the School as they had evolved over the preceding four centuries. In terms of name and location, dedication to the education of the local community, continued association with the Oundle Parish Church and much more besides, the Modern School, Laxton Grammar School, represented the continuation of much, in reality most, of what had gone before.

A somewhat contentious question still posed from time to time is which of the two schools was the 'original.' Unsurprisingly, at the time of the separation of the Schools, the Grocers' Company viewed the Classical School, Oundle School, as the new departure, the corollary being that Laxton Grammar School continued as the original school. There is, however, another possible interpretation. In their different ways, both Schools represented the continuation of aspects of the School as it had been before 1876. ▶

▶ Drawing of north wall and floor plan first floor of Old Gildhouse by J Gwilt - 1850

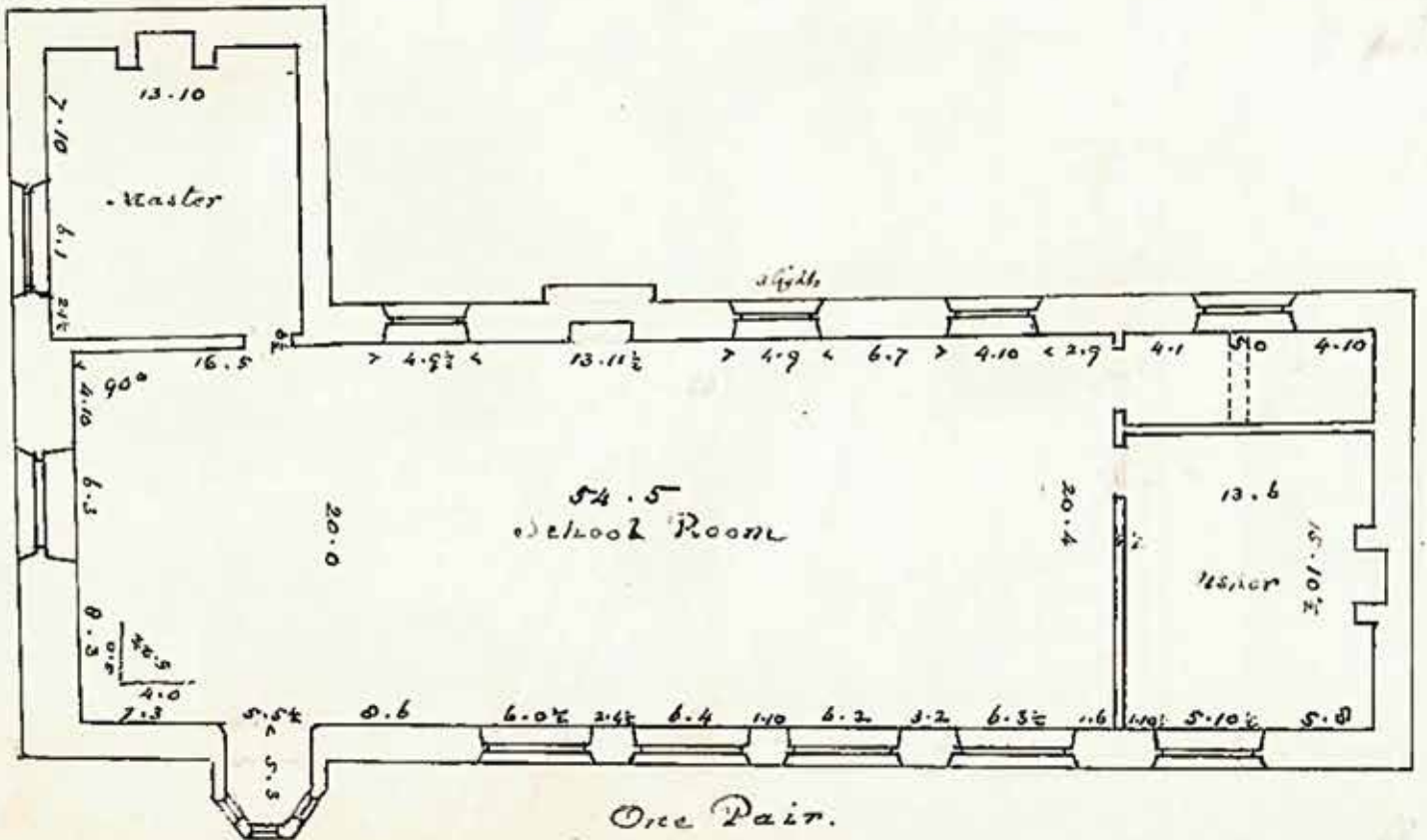
Sport, in its broad sense, has always been popular at the Schools, though 'Games' only became compulsory in 1876. Until then, the traditional, voluntary sports were football (not rugby), cricket and fives. The first recorded cricket match against another school was played on the Milton Road pitch against Uppingham on 30 August 1855. It would be nice to savour a victory, prescient for future generations of OOs – and OLs for that matter, but, despite a spirited battle, the School lost by the narrowest of margins...8 wickets! Poaching in the local woods, by boys armed with catapults and pistols, was also commonplace.



At A wall overhangs $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches

B $1\frac{1}{2}$

existing at present a square = $1\frac{1}{2}$ for



◀ Laxton Grammar School in the ways mentioned in the preceding paragraph; Oundle School by continuing the tradition of boarding, an aspect anticipated in the codicil to Sir William Laxton's will which had been an important aspect of the School from 1556 onwards. So, it may reasonably be said, neither School was *the* original. Each was original in its own way and each traces its ultimate origins to the same places, dates and events.

The 'originality' debate does, however, obscure something of significance. The story of Oundle School since 1876 is one of extraordinary success and of its confirmation as one of the great public schools of England. The progression of the School over the past 150 years is physically represented by many of the fine buildings and other facilities that now grace the town of Oundle - including the Cloisters, the Great Hall, the Memorial Chapel and more recently the Pavilion, Sci-Tec and now the new Sports Centre. All make their own distinctive contributions to the life of the School and in many cases also give considerable esoteric and practical benefits to the people of Oundle. The older buildings nevertheless remain of great value. Pre-eminent among them is the ancient building, rebuilt in 1855 and known variously as the Old Guildhouse, the Schoolhouse, the Old Schoolhouse, Laxton and the Laxton Building. In the modern era the idea that a single schoolroom could serve an entire school is quaint to say the least, but the Old Schoolroom provided space for as many as five classes simultaneously - and that is where Oundle School began. In all practical senses right up to 1876 it *was* the School. In all of that time there was one School and one tradition.

In the period since the separation of the Schools in 1876, given the central role of the Old Schoolhouse in the life of Laxton School it is inevitable that some Oundelians and Old Oundelians will have forgotten, perhaps never even known of, its significance in the context of the history and traditions of Oundle School. But unification - reunification is a more apt description

What happened to the 'seven poor men' of Oundle, housed in the ground floor of Old Schoolhouse? When the Old Schoolhouse was rebuilt in 1855 they were given accommodation in the almshouse at the South-East end of Church Lane. The last almsman left, and the almshouse was closed, in 1934.

- has reconnected Oundle School with its historical heritage. As it has often proudly claimed, Oundle School traces its origins back to 1556, to the endowment of the Free Grammar School of Sir William Laxton. For 320 of the 464 years since then, the Old Schoolhouse was the School. Now there is again only one school and its historic heart is once again the rebuilt Old Schoolhouse, the Laxton Building.

2020 is also the 30th anniversary of the introduction of co-education to the Schools and much more will no doubt be said and written about that in the coming months. Two women, whose names are mentioned above, played vital roles in the founding of the School. In establishing the Oundle Guild in 1494, Dame Joan Wyatt laid its very first foundations. Sir William Laxton's widow, Lady Laxton, formerly Joan Luddington, née Kirkeby, played a key role in ensuring that Sir William's directions for the endowment of the School were followed after his death in 1556. Both are fittingly memorialised in the two girls' Houses established in 1990 that bear their names. ■

This article, together with the accompanying images, is published with the co-operation and consent of the Corporation of Oundle School. I also wish to acknowledge WG Walker's book A History of the Oundle Schools, which I have relied upon as a reference source and to confirm factual information.

*Philip Sloan,
Laxton Grammar School 1964-71*

TIMELINE

- 1971 - Prince William School opens, leading to the long-term end of state funding for the pupils of Laxton Grammar School
- 1988 - Decision that both Schools become co-educational. Girls join Laxton Sixth Form
- 1990 - Kirkeby and Wyatt Houses open; last state-assisted pupils join Laxton Grammar School; change of name from Laxton Grammar School to Laxton School
- 1992 - Sport is integrated throughout both Schools
- 2000 - Unity of Schools and Resolution 2000 made by the Governing Body to unify Oundle School, Laxton School and Laxton Junior School
- 2009 - Trustees of Oundle School and of Laxton decide to transfer the assets of Laxton to Oundle School
- 2010 - Asset transfer takes effect; 5 October: Laxton ceases to exist as a separate entity; name is changed from Laxton to Laxton House

Class of 2010

Jamie Budgett (F) and Sophie Harrison (Sn) reveal what the 2010 Leavers have been up to in the last ten years.

Whilst in the depths of the country's lockdown, we received an email from Mrs Smedley reminding us that – amidst the debate on whether a face mask was going to be a fashion statement or medical protection – we had reached the milestone of ten years since leaving Oundle, and, as such, had the responsibility of coordinating the highly coveted 'Class of...' article for the Old Oundelian. At this point, Zoom had become the 'normal' way to interact, flour was the most valuable commodity you could get your hands on, and everyone was

scrambling for ways to stay connected, to stay informed and to stay sane. Strangely, collating the entries for this article has done just that.

Piecing it together has been the perfect excuse to reach out and reconnect with our peers, to be inspired and uplifted by their achievements, and to find a huge amount of joy in reading (and re-reading) the remarkable journeys, transformations and success stories of the last ten years. The accomplishments that follow are so varied for us to try and single out only a few – from entrepreneurs to doctors, artists to scientists, and even a professional mountaineer. It really has been a tremendous pleasure. What continues to strike us most

is the incredible friendships forged at Oundle, all of which remain so important to so many of us still today. Whilst with the numerous engagements, weddings and even children that have been a part of the past ten years, what it does show is that we have all done a lot of growing up!

It would be remiss to not also take a moment to acknowledge the tragic passing of Vadim Atroshenko, an integral member of the Grafton year group, and our thoughts go out to his family.

We are hugely grateful to our cohort of Heads of House (and Pat and Charlie!) for their support in collecting everyone's news and we do hope you enjoy reading the stories of Oundle's 2010 Leavers.

▼ **Class of 2010 co-ordinators, Jamie Budgett (B) and Sophie Harrison (Sn)**



BRAMSTON

Sam Bowers: I spent some time teaching in Nepal with Tom Campbell-Moffat (B 10) and tomb raiding in Cambodia with Ellie Hiskett (K 10). I then moved to sunny LA to attend the University of Southern California, where I learned to longboard, joined a fraternity, got a degree in International Relations, and never saw the rain... ever. Post-college, I spent a couple of years in marketing, then completed the Mongol Rally in 2017 which spanned 24 countries, and about 19,000 miles. I visited Phillip Begak (C 10) in Moscow on the way back before we finally jettisoned our noble steed in a Finnish scrap yard, and now I'm back in NY working in wealth management and hiding from COVID. I've enjoyed visits from a few Oundle folks including Tom Markland (S 10) and George Bartlett (StA 10), but I definitely hope to see more of you by the twenty-year mark and am excited to hear what's new.

Aaron Chu: I cannot believe it has almost been ten years since Oundle. Life has not been easy moving down to Australia where literally everything seems to be designed to

make your life difficult, including suicidal kangaroos on the rural roads, bushfires everywhere which are probably started by Australian BBQs, and a limited Netflix library compounded with snail-speed internet. Fortunately, having survived Bramston, I have developed enough strength and tact to navigate the more difficult corners in life. Reality aside, I have completed my degree in Medicine and am currently working as a Psychiatry trainee in Sydney. Truth be told, I never knew the skills I employed in dealing with you lot in Bramston were so transferrable to my current role! I hope everyone is having a great life and thank you all for being a part of my unforgettable time at Oundle.

William Dugdale: After leaving Oundle, I took a gap year and then returned to education to study History and Politics at Oundle University (otherwise known as the University of Manchester). I had a good three years there and really nearly graduated! After uni, I worked for a while in the world of mortgages which oddly didn't very much satisfy any of my hopes and dreams so I left. I have since started my current job of working in film production and was thrilled to

recently shoot a movie with one of my old Bramston housemates, fourteen years after first mucking about with cameras in third form.

Charlie Hill: After a year out and a couple of retakes, I went to Newcastle University to study Economics and Business. I then moved to London and am working as a reinsurance broker focusing on sports and entertainment. Since leaving Oundle I have lived at various times with Ed Tweddle (S 10), Will Dugdale (B 10), Fred Elborne (StA 10) and Fred Farmer (F 10) so should really try and branch out! I continue to captain and organise our Old Ramblers XI, who have recently enjoyed tours to Sri Lanka, Devon, the Isle of Wight and Jersey.

Gervas Lam: After Oundle, I went on to study Finance and Accounting at the University of Nottingham and luckily graduated with a 2:1. I then returned to Hong Kong and started working for one of the big four accounting firms and am now on my seventh year. Now a certified accountant and fraud examiner, I advise people on how to commit fraud and launder money without getting caught (jokes... umm). Due to the boring nature of my job, which completely contradicts my hyperactive personality, I do Muay Thai as a relaxation – mostly getting beat-up, but looking to turn the tables soon. That being said, it feels amazing to reconnect with the Bramston boys after ten years; it certainly brought back loads of memories and I hope I can go back to visit everyone in the near future!

Ben Langford: After leaving Oundle, I moved as far away as possible to study at Aberdeen University. After a few years there, I left because of a falling out with the admin over acceptable teaching standards and their handling of the sudden loss of both my brother and my flatmate. I came away with just a lifeguard qualification and a PADI divemaster certificate. Deciding not to waste these, I spent a season as an intern



Charlie Hill and fellow Old Ramblers XI

divemaster in Malaysia before working as a lifeguard at a couple of pools in the UK including Oundle. In the last couple of years, I set up my own property development company and am currently managing a project in the New Forest.

Sambrooke Spurrier: After deciding to turn a disciplinary problem into a fully-fledged career, I caught a plane to a winery in Chile. I worked in the winery for a few months before starting a Wine Business degree at Plumpton College back in the UK. After completing my degree, I held various roles in the drinks industry with companies such as Sipsmith, William Grant & Sons and The Dalmore before settling at Remy Cointreau, where I am currently enjoying my first leadership role. I met my partner, Lucinda, at university and we now live in Brixton with a demanding tenant called Aurelia, our beautiful daughter.

Patrick Webster: Having survived a fun but thoroughly unproductive three years at Manchester University, I was faced with the challenge of what to do with my 2:1 in 'Management & Leisure'. After very little thought, I fell into the popular trap of Recruitment where I spent an unhappy three years placing data scientists without much success. From there I found a role with the technology research house Gartner. Things turned a corner here as the training and brand set me up for securing my current occupation as new business team lead with a rapidly growing IoT start up, Samsara. Aside from work, after three years living as a four with Fred Risch (G 10) and Doug Anson (F 10), Harriet Story (Lx 10) and I decided to move in together. We still see a large number of OOs and count them among the kindest and warmest of friends.

CROSBY

William Alms: After leaving school I took a gap year where I travelled to



Housemates Harriet Story (Lx), Pat Webster (B), Fred Risch (G) and Doug Anson (F)

South America with Will Winterton (Sc 10) and Greg Whitaker (Sc 10) taking us to Costa Rica, Panama, Peru, Bolivia, Argentina and Uruguay where we found ourselves and purchased overpriced alpaca hoodies. On my return, I taught as a sailing and windsurfing instructor in Greece for the rest of the year.

I then studied Law & French at Bristol University for four years, which included a year abroad studying (drinking) in Paris at Sciences Politique, which I would highly recommend to any current pupil reading this.

After graduating in 2015, I took up a random opportunity to fly to Bermuda and help deliver a yacht across the North Atlantic to the UK. Without reading the small print, I arrived to find a 55-year-old, 14-ton, wooden ketch with no autopilot to be sailed only by myself and two others. After 27 days, two storms and plenty of whales and dolphins, we made it back to Falmouth alive to tell the tale...just!

I am now living in London and reading the small print as a lawyer at international tech law firm, Bird & Bird, where I have just qualified into the Corporate Venture Capital team.

Jonathan Blackburn: Having studied Molecular and Cellular Biology at Newcastle and then a Masters in Media and Public

Relations, I headed to London and have worked in healthcare communications across public affairs and relations ever since. These days I seem to spend a lot of time travelling to various medical conferences around the world to film and interview experts.

When not travelling, you can find me out and about filming wildlife – underwater if possible, as scuba diving at school has translated into trips around the world to see the creatures of the deeps.

James Duncalfe: After reading French and Italian at Bristol, I have been living in London and working in finance. Having sailed at school, I continued my nautical endeavours at Bristol and now form part of the OO team's annual onslaught in the Solent at the Arrow Trophy.

I'm a recent convert to cycling, and am usually found trailing at the back of a weekend peloton and being the keenest for the café stop. I'm in regular contact with fellow OOs and am fortunate to have Serena Pottinger (N 10) as one of my housemates.

Benjamin Hewins: After graduating from UCL with an MSci in Physics in 2014, I started working as a software developer in London. In 2016, I got a job at an asset management company. Although I loved living in

◀ London, I wanted to make the most of the possibilities of the internet and in 2019 got a remote job as a developer at a technology startup. Since then I've been travelling in France and Italy with my partner of seven years and am currently staying near Concarneau, Brittany, waiting for the lockdown to end.

Francis Kwong: Post Oundle, I studied Computer Science at the University of Bristol, after which I moved to London and worked at Credit Suisse (then Bluebay Asset Management) before taking a year out as a proprietary futures trader. I am currently at Sculptor Capital Management on Regents Street working in front office technology.

For a few years, James Collins (St A 10) and I lived together in my flat in Southwark where we both shared a mutual liking for fine food and tech. Additionally I keep in close contact with Emily Twaite (N 10) and her family. Lastly, in my spare time I enjoy going on track days on my motorcycle, taking on a road trip, hosting dinner parties and a touch of gardening.

Adam Lee: I live in London with Izzi Hudson (Lx 10), more recently moving away from the Brixton/ Clapham heartland to Hackney, as I'm sure Izzi will have proudly mentioned. After graduating from Cambridge, I spent a double gap year travelling, skiing, losing weight and pondering my future. Seeking both exciting day-to-day work and the opportunity to make a difference in the world, I settled on becoming an accountant. I'm now mostly a strategy consultant, although I dabble as a part-time emergency reserve florist. I look back on my time in Oundle very fondly – I can't believe it was only two years!

DRYDEN

Fiona Adams: After leaving Oundle, I studied Product Design Engineering at Loughborough University. The degree involved me spending one fantastic year working in Kuala

Lumpur at a facultative reinsurance broking firm in engineering and construction. After having had my fair dose of Southeast Asian travel, I returned to the UK to complete my degree whilst securing a position on the Willis Re graduate programme. I moved to London and started work in the Marine & Energy Specialty department in September 2014 and I have worked there ever since. I specialise in international marine treaty reinsurance business and this has involved regular travel to Europe, Latin America and Southeast Asia. I thoroughly enjoy working in the industry, have met some great people, and love the travel opportunities it brings. I met my boyfriend through the industry, and we have now been living together for a couple of years.

Frances Denny: First to Oxford, then an intermittent selection of legal training and escaping to Latin America to learn Spanish and find a way to move there. Failing that, I've moved about a bit in jobs and landed inside the TV/film production industry at Warner Bros Film. All in all, I'm very happy.

Leonora Forrest: After a gap year involving some work experience and travelling in Kenya, I went on to study English Literature followed by a Masters in Real Estate Development. I trained to become a Chartered Surveyor at CBRE in London and qualified in 2017. I now work for Selfridges Group as an Asset Manager and live in Islington with my boyfriend who luckily for me is a brilliant chef! I remain close with a lot of Oundle friends, I have enjoyed some amazing trips with fellow OD Emma Greenlees, and happy stints living with Celia Scruby (W 10) and Jamie Ball (Sc 10).

Emma Greenlees: After Oundle, I headed out to live in Italy before starting a Spanish & Italian degree at university, but after three weeks at my first choice I was confident it really wasn't for me (another four years in what felt like boarding school...) and I took a year out to

evaluate my options. After over a year working and living away from home (including another stint in Italy...) I started studying French & History of Art at UCL; the London experience was certainly different and I have largely stayed there since, except for stints studying in Paris and working in New York. I started working at what was then RBS straight after graduation, and have been there for (gulp!) the past five years in a variety of roles in both London & New York. After nine years in central London, I moved out to Hertfordshire three weeks before lockdown, where I live with my miniature dachshund puppy Bella. I'm lucky to have made a few amazing friendships (special mention to my travel buddy Leonora) that have grown stronger since I left Oundle, and leave me with very happy memories ten years on.

Emily Heywood: After leaving Oundle, I went to the University of Sheffield to study medicine, where my six years, incorporated a year of research. I have stayed in Sheffield since to continue my career working as a doctor and to climb and get outdoors into the Peak District as much as possible. I am currently near the start of surgical training, looking to specialise in ear, nose and throat surgery.

Cliona Lewis: I took the scenic route through a craic-filled six years at Bristol University. Came out with a medical degree and now do Doctoring. Couldn't bring myself to leave the South West and currently having a merry time working and living in Bristol. Am planning on a move to New Zealand at the tail end of the year (global pandemic allowing). Long term plan is Emergency Medicine of the paediatric variety.

Angharad Marmont: After studying English Literature at the University of Liverpool, I took six months out to play polo in New Zealand. Following that, real life beckoned and I moved to London where I took up a position

at PwC. I've met some great people at work, including my fiancé, who first caught my eye across a karaoke bar in Bloomsbury. I tried to escape his clutches by going travelling around the world for six months, but it didn't work and we are now planning our wedding next spring.

Zoë Rice: Since leaving Oundle, I've continued to yo-yo between the UK and Canada, debating where to settle. Opting for university in Bristol, I had an amazing three years and made the fairly predictable move to London for a financial PR graduate scheme. I later took a far less predictable career shift (temporarily) before travelling Central America and making my way back to Canada where I've been living the past three years, working in content and loyalty marketing. I have a great lifestyle in Toronto, balancing friends, adventures and a smoothie barista side hustle. That said, I'll be moving back to the UK again next month and look forward to seeing old school friends on the reg.

Stephanie Smith: Since graduating with a degree in Sociology from Durham University, I took a year out travelling around Central America and then drove to Istanbul and back. On returning, I completed the Teach First Graduate Scheme at a school in Wellingborough, before moving to teach in Brixton where I have been for the past three years, currently head of Year 6. I now live in Brixton with my fiancé and our dog, Binsey, with a move out of London to the countryside calling. I still enjoy keeping active doing the occasional triathlon and am often in contact with the 3BY girls I met 15 years ago.

Sophie Steel: After leaving Oundle, I studied History of Art at Bristol university and then moved to London to do a Masters at the Courtauld Institute of Art. I spent the next four years at an arts communications agency working with museums, galleries and art fairs and getting to travel a fair bit. Two years ago, I joined the Victoria &

Albert Museum as a Comms Manager focusing on the public programme. I live with my boyfriend in Brixton and am still close with a number of Oundle friends.

Heidi Trott: After spending an indecisive summer back home in Bermuda in 2010, toying between University in the UK or the US, I decided to take a leap across the pond to attend the University of Virginia. I loved my time in Charlottesville and for a short time even developed a bit of a Southern twang. Following my studies at UVA, where I majored in Global Development, I spent a year living and working in Washington DC, but the island life eventually drew me back. For the last four and a half years I have been working as an Investment Analyst for a Fund Manager in Bermuda. In addition to work, I studied for and completed my CFA exams and earlier this year received my CFA designation. In most recent news, I got engaged earlier this month to my fiancé who I met at his UVA fraternity (as one does). We hope to be married in 2021.

Uzira Uzir: After Oundle, I spent a gap year mainly in my home country Malaysia with a volunteering stint in Tanzania, before studying medicine at the University of Birmingham. I then worked for the NHS in various hospitals in the West Midlands, but have since returned to Kuala Lumpur. I have managed to finish a half Ironman last year, which was an achievement since I did not know how to ride a bike previously. I still keep in touch with some OOs, and hope to continue my clinical practice here.

FISHER

Doug Anson: I still see a lot of Oundle people, and have been lucky enough to live with them non-stop since leaving (maybe a sign to branch out).

After Oundle, I took a gap year, doing a ski season in Verbier with Oscar Brooman White (Lx 10),

moving on to travel around Cuba and Mexico with Fred Risch (G 10) and Oscar. I then studied Classical Studies at Exeter, where it took me all of 30 minutes to scout out Oli Bowley (F 10), spending the rest of my time at uni living with him. During second year summer, I travelled to Thailand with Pat Webster (B 10) and Harriet Story (Lx 10), later travelling to Nicaragua and Costa Rica with Fred, Harriet and Oscar after graduation.

Pursuing my thirst for constant holidays, I then took on a six-month placement at ski travel agency Wasteland Ski, coordinating university ski trips (I never slept). Living with Pat, Harriet and Fred in Fulham, I then took an internship at a luxury cosmetics PR agency (I smelt great and my hair was fabulous) before moving on to start the graduate scheme at tech PR agency Brands2Life, where after nearly five years I am now a Senior Account Manager. I live in Brixton with Oli, Fred having moved out not too long ago.

Tom Bishop: Three studious years at Manchester University followed my time at Oundle where I watched the curtains close on some great careers; Paul Scholes, Ryan Giggs, Sir Alex Ferguson. Sad times that were warmed by my 2:1 in History.

Having left Manchester, I decided to step outside my comfort zone and moved to London to begin a career in the insurance industry. After a fun couple of years, I thought it was time to settle into something a little more professional and serious, so I set up a tequila business – El Rayo Tequila.

Somewhere along the way we decided that Tequila and tonic would be a good idea, so I now spend my days trying to convince people that tequila is the new gin. It's extremely rewarding.

I am still involved with OO cricket and enjoy my time out on the field whether it be with the Rovers or the Ramblers.

Oli Bowley: Happily, I still regularly see lots of Oundle and Fisher people. I find it hard to believe that the time

◀ that has passed since we left is now twice the length of time we were there.

After leaving Oundle, I studied Politics at Exeter, where I lived with Doug Anson (F 10). I managed to fit three ski seasons in and around uni (in France, the US and Japan) and after a short stint as a chef, eventually moved to London where I lived with Doug Anson and Fred Risch (G 10), and am still squatting in Doug’s flat in Brixton as a live-in butler.

After much reflection, I decided that being really, really argumentative might as well be career enhancing so I decided to become a lawyer. I am qualifying in September at Macfarlanes, specializing in white-collar crime and civil fraud, where I expect I will continue to spend most of each working week trying to explain to Freddie Farmer (F 10) that his latest visionary idea is yet another pyramid scheme.

Jamie Budgett: After leaving Oundle, I wanted to earn some money to go travelling and was fortunate to land a job at the prestigious restaurant Nando’s (Cambridge Branch). Although I was never deemed skilled

enough to grill the chicken, I am pleased to say I was trusted with microwaving mash potato and was awarded employee of the month in November 2010 - which remains my proudest achievement over the last ten years.

Following three months in South America and three months in Kenya with various OOs, I then went to Bristol University to study English Literature where, upon realising that the English course at Bristol had no exams and no dissertation to write, I decided to pursue my passion for theatre to fill some of the time. This subsequently led to a desire for a career in theatre management and, after graduating, I went on to complete a graduate scheme with the Ambassador Theatre Group. After moving around the organisation in various guises I found myself in the bright lights and dizzy heights of Milton Keynes as the Deputy General Manager of the Milton Keynes Theatre. Although most would agree that MK is the cultural epicentre of the UK, a year later I was offered a job managing a theatre in the West End of London which was hard to refuse – and that is where I remain to date.

Aaron Chai: Upon leaving Oundle, I went on to do an undergraduate degree in Medicine at Trinity College Dublin. The five years of med school were tough, but I thoroughly enjoyed myself – having some of the most challenging and interesting experiences. One involved a medical expedition into a Belize rainforest where I was taught some emergency medicine, expedition medicine and bushcraft/basic survival skills specific to the region.

Following the completion of my degree, I returned to Malaysia for work. I was fortunate to be accepted to do my internship in one of the largest public hospitals in Malaysia, University of Malaya Medical Centre, where I worked for two years.

Tiring as the hours were, and how frustrating it was to work seven days a week for two years, I could not have asked for better foundation training – having pushed myself to 36+ hour shifts, to leading the deliveries of over 200 babies.

I took a year off to travel after finishing my stint in Malaysia, hopping from China to the Americas and catching up with old friends in various countries.

Currently, I am working back in Ireland at Cavan General Hospital as a Senior House Officer. I plan to take my membership exams sometime this year and progress further towards a specialty of some sort. As of now, since I’m still unsure as to what path I’ll be taking, I shall ask the mystics of my village which path would best suit me.

Jack Clancy: After Oundle, I headed to university in London with the intention of eventually doing medicine. I quickly realised this wasn’t actually what I wanted to do.

I’ve been involved in a range of things in London, including working with my older brothers, former Fisher alumni Kieran (F 03) and Danny (F 99), organising music events and festivals in London and abroad. As well as working in web design, I currently run a small commercial drone business, filming at music events and surveying on large-scale construction projects. I am currently plotting my next



Oli Bowley (F), Jamie Budgett (F), Doug Anson (F), Ed Tweddle (S), Pat Webster (B) and Jamie Ball (Sc)



venture.

I am still very close with lots of my Fisher compatriots, and lived with Freddie Farmer (F 10) in Primrose Hill before the mess became too unbearable and Jamie Budgett (F 10) and Ben Hay (S 10) moved in with me in Kennington.

Freddie Farmer: Thinking about my aspirational self ten years ago and taking the time to evaluate my leavers' quote: "first learn the rules of the game, and then play better than everyone else" against my life today, I'm forced to reflect on what game I've been playing all this time.

Having first studied Physics at UCL, living with Jack Clancy (F 10) off Euston Road, Jack Oughtred (F 10) in Angel, Islington and Thomas Johansen (F 10) in Park Lane & Mayfair, I find myself just north of Old Kent Road and on the second lap of the Monopoly board.

Having rolled the dice in traditional finance, I've moved into the relative career safety of crypto. Saving up my free parking and having just passed go, I'm building a company in the Decentralised Finance space, safe in the comfort that there will only ever be 21 million bitcoin and that I picked up a get out of jail free card in Oli Bowley (F 10) very early in the game.

Thomas Johansen June 2010 – June 2020: 20 Countries, 4 Rehabs, 2 Hedge Funds, 2 Start-ups, 2 Cars, 1 Flat, 1 Dog, 1 Son, 1 Incredible Family and a Bullet-Proof Group of True Friends.

In summary, lots of highs and lots of lows, with multiple successes and failures along the way.

Learnt a lot, laughed a lot and also lost a lot, including myself at one point. A whirlwind ten years, underpinned by a battle against addiction.

Grateful to be alive and grateful to have been shown the light. Still a chief rascal, spiritually imperfect and a scared little boy at times, but trying my best to do the next right thing and walk slowly with the Lord himself.

And please, for anyone who reads this and is struggling or knows someone that is, please reach out. I

◀ almost definitely will not have the answer to your problems, but neither will any rehab centre, this I am sure of.

Do however know there is a way out!

Fortune favours the brave, and the power is in the space not the words.

Written with love from Cheshire

Mike Kim: Since leaving Oundle, I graduated from Oxford University in 2015 with a Master's Degree in Engineering Science with a thesis centred around Bio-medical engineering. While obtaining my Masters, it dawned on me that this was not something I wanted to pursue as a career so I took two years off after graduating to teach myself C, C++, and Java to get into a IT company as a software developer. While it took a little longer than expected and there were complications with mandatory military service, all things worked out and I am currently working at an IT company in Seoul, South Korea for three years which will replace my two-year mandatory military service. As the mandatory three years at my current company is almost over, I am currently trying to move careers again as a Data Analyst in the gaming industry as video games have been and will always be a massive part of my life. Still an avid supporter of Arsenal FC (as much as it hurts me inside every day), I have started to watch the NBA again to stay true to my upbringing in the US prior to England.

Jack Oughtred: Having arrived late to Oundle as a slightly uncouth northerner, I left to fulfil most of the more traditional stereotypes. After leaving school, I spent a year playing cricket before going to Durham Uni. Like 72% of Durham graduates, this is where I met my future wife, Izzy. Our plan was (still is) to get married this November, but, like a lot of things, that remains to be seen. After Durham I headed for London, where I managed to survive living with Freddie Farmer (F 10) before moving to Pimlico where I now live with my aforementioned fiancée. I spent the first five years after university working for Tesco as a

buyer, looking after all things from biscuits to beer to fruit. So, if you've found yourself in your local Tesco complaining about the bananas being too green or too yellow, I can only apologise...although maybe I'm fairly safe given the likely crossover between Tesco shoppers and Old Oundelians. Over the last year and a bit, however, I realised that that job was far too interesting, so now find myself as a mergers and acquisitions consultant at PwC, focusing on retail and consumer businesses. I'm still trying to keep up with as many Old Oundelians as possible, and hoping to see much more of them in 2021 than has been allowed so far in 2020.

Max Pullen: After leaving Oundle, I moved on to Durham University to study Chemistry. I decided Chemistry really was not for me so when I graduated in 2013, I returned to Harrogate to work within the family business; the import and distribution of pet products. Having started picking orders in the warehouse I now operate as Operations Director. Unfortunately, as things go, living 200 miles from most of the Oundle boys, I have not stayed in touch particularly well. Hopefully ten years on that will change.

Marcus Tse: After leaving Oundle, I moved to London to study Aeronautical Engineering at Imperial College London. Four years of student life in Zone 1 was eye-opening and exciting, yet drowned in endless overnight studies for exams. During holiday times in Hong Kong, I met my future wife Monica and we entered into a long-distance relationship. After graduation I moved to Leamington Spa and joined the graduate scheme with Jaguar Land Rover and I have been climbing the career ladder since then. I was responsible for the quality management of the company and acted as a consultant to improve the company's effectiveness, as well as deploying quality management into new manufacturing plants. It was a challenging role with frequent business trips to Europe, but I am delighted to see a new product launched where I was part of the team. I married my wife

in 2018 and we are now residing in Coventry, treasuring every moment together with leisure travels around the world while planning for a career-breakthrough and kids.

Sunny (Thanawat Pipathahanunth): I'm currently very busy with my start-up over here in Thailand, opening a gelato ice cream shop and doing all the production processes, ordering machines and monitoring the construction side.

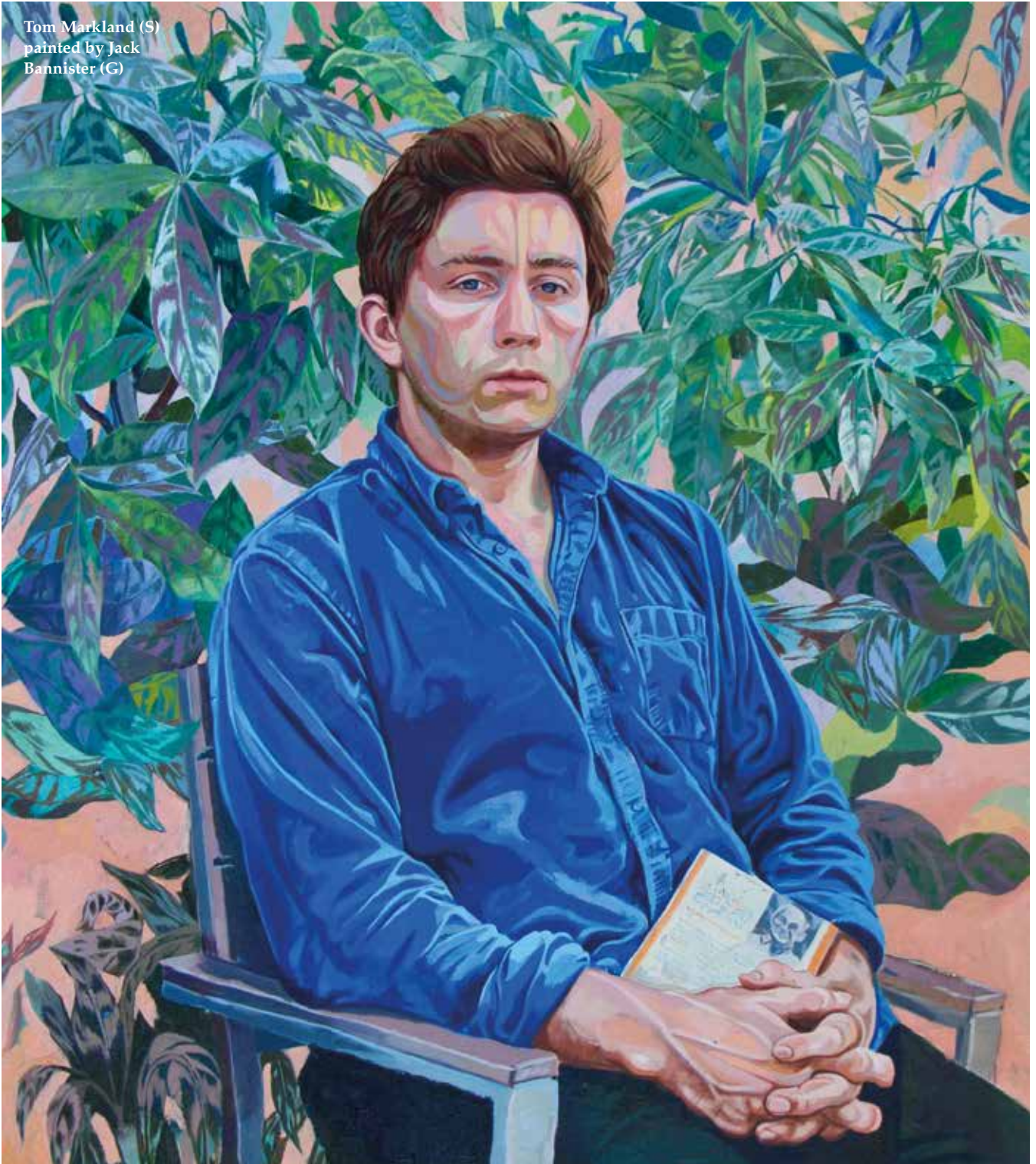
GRAFTON

Vadim Atroshenko: Grafton was truly saddened to hear about Vadim's passing. After receiving the news, several of us gathered at a pub in London for a final toast and shared our favourite stories of him. We have such fond memories of our time growing up together at Oundle and send our love to his family.

Jack Bannister: Completed an Art foundation course at Leeds in 2011 and started painting portraits as soon as I'd finished. I went on to do this full-time for the next seven years – highlights were regularly exhibiting with the Royal Society of Portrait Painters and being awarded the 'Zee's Claw' for excellence in 2017. After a bit, I decided a career change was in order, so moved down to London in 2018 and worked in marketing and then landscaping. After a few months digging holes, I figured I'd really like to be an osteopath. So, I applied, and since September 2019 I've been studying at the University College of Osteopathy and work a little sports massage on the side at the Oily Piece in Camberwell.

Freddie Cornish: After leaving Oundle, I moved to London for Business Studies with Finance and then my WSET with the thought of going into Wine Investment. However, after finding out my talents lay more in the entertaining of clients, I quickly fell into AI technology sales where I have found myself working for a number of large American corporates. I got engaged in October 2019 and am looking forward to getting married in April of 2021.

Tom Markland (S)
 painted by Jack
 Bannister (G)



Fred Risch: After Oundle, I did a ski season in the French alps, followed by a trip with Doug Anson (F 10) and Oscar BW (L 10) around Cuba and Mexico. I then went on to the University of Southampton where I studied Anthropology, and continued my interest in skiing through the

university club, where I organised student trips to the mountains. Post-graduation, I swapped my planks for a cheap suit and landed a job in recruitment. After a few years, I moved into business development in tech, most recently drinking the Kool Aid at an American company. I've been in

London for the last six years, currently living with my girlfriend in Fulham.

Gwilym James: After Oundle, I spent my gap year working in a school on the North Island of New Zealand before heading to the University of Nottingham to study Computer

◀ Science. After graduating, I worked as an IT Consultant with a focus on data engineering, mostly within banking. Showing brilliant timing, I left that role to seek a new one right as the world entered lockdown and hiring dried up massively.

James Cubitt: I spent a year working and travelling in Kenya with Alastair Humphreys (G 10) and the Balkans with Serena Pottinger (N 10), before studying History and International Relations at Oxford Brookes followed by a Masters in International Security at King's College London. After graduating, I joined insurance broker Jardine Lloyd Thompson as a political risk broker and lived with Harry Coulthard (S 10) in London for three years. I transferred to JLT's Singapore office in 2018 and have had a fantastic time exploring South East Asia with my fiancée El. We got engaged in February and are getting married next summer back in the UK. As for my siblings, Ed (G 12) is an accountant for PwC in London and Charlotte (K 09) teaches in Tower Hamlets and lives with her husband in St Albans.

Ben Collings: Following a gap year at Dean Close Prep School and Tewkesbury Abbey, I graduated from Bath Spa University with an MMus. During my time in Bath, I worked with the renowned chamber choirs Noctis and Bath Camerata. I performed as a guest soloist on tours to France, Czech Republic and China, as well as featuring at the English music festival and BBC Proms. It was also in Bath that I met my wife, India. We have been happily married now for three years. I have since turned my attention to teaching and in August 2018, we moved out to Thailand, where I took up the post of Assistant Director of Music at Rugby School Thailand.

Rory Osmond: I spent some time in South Africa before heading to Loughborough University to study Politics. Since then I have spent five years in London working in Fintech where I am now specialising in Financial Crime as a product



Ben Collings conducting

manager. I am still in contact with a number of Oundelians across different years with whom I often re-live stories of sports matches, boarding life, teachers and of course, the legendary Vadim Atroshenko (G 10).

KIRKEBY

Millie Ashworth: Having left Oundle I fell into the hospitality world, working at a hotel to fund some travelling with Polly Hughes (K 10) to India – resulting in me cutting the trip short after realising my hatred for rice and spice and that I missed home comforts. The gap year job made me realise that I wasn't made for an overly academic degree, switching to International Hospitality at Oxford Brookes. University holidays, when not in the sun in a foreign country with Laura Dobson (K 10), were spent working in the local pub. After university I took up pub life as a full-time lifestyle/job working for a pub group in the Home Counties. When I manage to escape the pub world, I often head to find the Kirkeby girls in London or jump on a plane to join them on a holiday in the sun – using book club as an excuse to meet up frequently. As Ellie Hiskett (K 10) has pointed out, I never read the book – I just go for the giggles and glasses of wine.

Kate Beckwith: Since leaving Oundle, I have sought to keep the balance of work and theatre much the same as I did at school. After a short run at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival with fellow Oundelians, I headed a little further north up the A1 to join the theatre and comedy societies at Newcastle University (alongside an undergraduate degree in Spanish and Business Studies). After a quick stint in Madrid, enjoying the siesta and sangria way of life, I returned to Newcastle to complete a Masters degree in Latin American Interdisciplinary Studies. Since September 2015, I have worked at PwC in London where I first qualified as a chartered accountant before being seconded to work on

projects focused around organisational and cultural change. Theatre continues to play a big role in my life and since joining PwC I have found time for acting, writing and (soon to be) directing the PwC annual charity Pantomime. I still keep up with the Kirkeby girls through our 4-year-old book club and I now live with Laura Dobson (K 10) in London.

Annabel Cooke: During my gap year, I embarked on a ski season in Verbier followed by travelling India and South East Asia with my fellow Kirkeby ladies Ellie Hiskett (K 10), Polly Hughes (K 10), Laura Dobson (K 10) and Olive Hart (K 10). I then spent three happy years at Cambridge University studying Land Economy and playing lots of hockey.

On graduating, I moved to London and have now worked at Deloitte LLP for six years where I have qualified as a chartered accountant and chartered tax advisor. I still keep very active by cycling, skiing and dabbling at triathlons.

Lucy Curzon: I moved to Germany after my MA in English at York, and, following an intensive language course, got a job at the Berlin International Literature Festival, where I managed projects helping refugee authors find their feet through publication opportunities and mentorship schemes. I have now worked in the cultural engagement team at the British Council in Berlin for three years, leading on the Germany operation's diversity agenda. Volunteering with vulnerable communities has drawn me to learning Arabic, which I would like to use in future work and for my research project as part of a distance-learning MSc in Psychology starting this September. I also freelance as a cellist when I can!

Ellie Hiskett: After Oundle, I baked lots of cakes working as a chalet girl during a ski season in Verbier with Annabel Cooke (K 10) and Olive Hart (K 10), and then crashed a motorbike in Vietnam during

adventures in SE Asia with Annabel, Laura Dobson (K 10), Polly Hughes (K 10) and Sam Bowers (S 10). I read English at Cambridge and spent four uni summer holidays (two with Polly) working as a villa host for the Peligoni Club in Greece. In my final year at uni, I passed my driving test on the eighth attempt, was a contestant on a TV cookery show, and got a training contract with Linklaters. After law school in London, I travelled around India. The yoga retreat in Goa celebrated spirituality and eschewing material possessions, so returning to start my training contract in the private equity department of Linklaters made quite a contrast. At the end of my training contract, in order to pursue a life of adventure, I qualified as a corporate tax lawyer. Having lived with both Annabel in Fulham and Laura in Balham, I now live in Islington with my boyfriend Hugh. I love seeing Oundle friends and a highlight is Kirkeby book club (any excuse to drink with the Kirkeby girls, particularly as Millie Ashworth never reads the book...)

Rachel Hodgson: I have been back at Oundle working as a Classics teacher for six of the past ten years. This was never something I planned, but lots of happy coincidences have meant that I am still really enjoying life at the School and I am now a deputy Housemistress in Wyatt and head of Gold D of E. Highlights of being back at the School have been catching up with old friends when they come back to Oundle and most recently, catching up with Lucy Curzon (K 10) whilst on the Berlin Trip. Get in touch if you're ever passing through!

Polly Hughes: After leaving Oundle, I spent four months travelling around India and South East Asia with Annabel Cooke (K 10), Millie Ashworth (K 10), Laura Dobson (K 10) and Ellie Hiskett (K 10). On my return, I attended the University of Nottingham with Olive Hart (K 10) and Issy Taverner (K 10) to study a Psychology BSc degree. After graduating, it was

◀ time for some more travelling, this time a four-month trip around South America with university friends, followed by a summer working in Greece with Ellie Hiskett. Taking to the seasonaire lifestyle, this led to a winter season in Verbier, a two-month trip through Central America and another summer in Greece before finally making the move to London. After a year working in travel marketing, I am now marketing manager for an independent hospitality company based in Marylebone.

Rosalind Martin: At Oxford University studying Biology, I spent most of my spare time with the Officers Training Corps (OTC) where I discovered my love of endurance sports, particularly ski mountaineering. This led to me representing the British Army in the Swiss Patrouilles des Glaciers and Great Britain twice at the Ski Mountaineering World Championships which consists of running up mountains on skis and then skiing back down, sometimes overnight and roped together with team mates over glaciers. After a summer of cycle touring and wild camping across Europe, I've spent six years at Bayer Crop Science where I trained to become an agronomist, otherwise known as a 'crop doctor'. I've now taken on a more commercial role and continue to love working in the agricultural industry, occasionally stomping around fields in my wellies and avoiding the big smoke. When I'm not working, I can be found adventuring with friends or competing in endurance events including completing an Ironman triathlon and various mountain marathons.

Georgie Smith: After studying English Literature at Exeter University, I took a year out and spent five months travelling across South America by myself. Highlights include trekking the Inca Trail to Machu Picchu and skydiving in Argentina. I then moved to London and trained to teach English through Teach First, partly inspired by Tim

Hipperson, who taught me English throughout my time at Oundle. Although initially a baptism of fire, I persevered and now work at an international school in Hong Kong. I'm looking forward to visits from the Kirkeby girls when international travel resumes!

Isabella Taverner: At Nottingham University I spent four years completing my Masters in Nursing Science. After this, I started working as a nurse at St Thomas' hospital, London, in their cardiology department. Whilst living in London, we started a Kirkeby book club which is still running five years on! Although I loved nursing, there was still a sense that something was missing and having always wanted to be a doctor I decided to apply to study Medicine. I was lucky enough to gain a place at Keele University, and am now about to complete the fifth and final year of my course.

LAUNDIMER

Zulfakir Ali Bhutto Jr: The last ten years of my life has been an unlearning of what Oundle School tried to grill into my brown Muslim head. I made valuable friends in Oundle; however, it would weigh on my conscience not to say that racism and prejudice among the school's teaching staff went entirely unchecked. Teachers lauded imperial projects in Asia and Africa and believed the British were entitled to gratitude. There were also many teachers who laboured to compensate for the errors of their colleagues and I thank them. Since Oundle, I have earned an MAH in History of Art at The University of Edinburgh and then an MFA at the San Francisco Art Institute. I am a full-time visual artist, performer and curator based in California – my curatorial work and writing is for the most part concerned with uplifting Muslim voices, specifically queer and trans Muslim voices. I have had the privilege of speaking at NYU, Columbia and Stanford and I continue to perform and show my

work globally. Throughout this journey I have prayed every day that God grants me grace in all that I do.

Theo Cowper: Taking a year out after school to travel, I went to Exeter University to study Ancient History. From there, I found it difficult to find purpose in any graduate job and was drawn back to education, completing a PGCE in Latin with Classics at King's College London. I have now been teaching for four years, first at Eastbourne College on the South Coast, where I worked with former teachers Cris Symes and Alex Eadon, before moving back to London. I am now living with my long-term girlfriend and two cats and working at Townley Grammar School, as Head of Latin.

Charles Emberson: After graduating from university, I travelled around a bit before moving to Switzerland to work in materials science research. When I realised this wasn't for me, I moved back to London and worked in a few bars and then in restaurant management. Last year I married my wife Helen and I am now mostly at home with our two children, Otto and Isla, while doing some work with spirits companies and running cocktail classes on the side.

David Frost: After leaving Oundle, I studied Computer Science at Durham, where I fell in with a bunch of similarly minded geeks whom I remain in close contact with today. After leaving university, I found a job making pensions software; four years later, I got tired of the two-hour door-to-door commute and found work a bit closer to home. These days I'm working for Ocado, writing control systems for automated warehouses. Unlike some people, I haven't gone through anything particularly life-changing over these last ten years: I'm still the same person I was when I left Oundle, but I have become more confident in myself. Oundle made me who I am. And I'm fine with that. Until next time!

Henry Gorst: After leaving Bristol University in 2014 with a BAsC in Chemistry, I moved to London. After a brief stint in the Insurance industry, I realised a career in sales was more suited to my personality.

I joined Darktrace, a leading AI and cyber security company in 2017. The combination of a healthy sales record and being part of a fast-growing tech company has since enabled me to reach the position of Commercial Director. I now head up the recently opened Munich office, and my time is split between Germany and the UK. I like to spend my spare time enjoying travel and live music.

Freddie Heathcote: After leaving school, I was keen to prove not all good education can be learnt from the classroom or lecture hall. In the ten years since, I have cut my teeth running a variety of different businesses across the hospitality, technology and horticulture industries, never craving the time at university many other friends had. I am now the Managing Director and Owner of Arnott & Mason, a wholesale tropical and pot plant distribution business based in the New Covent Garden flower market. As the market opens at 4am, my working day is different to most, but if you ever want to see one of London's hidden gems, come and find me and I'll give you a tour.

Hamish Sandison: After leaving university with a degree in Chemistry, I moved to London and joined Deloitte's graduate program. I double-qualified as a chartered accountant and chartered tax advisor, specialising in the mergers and acquisition sector. I also managed to keep playing a bit of rugby in my early London days, including a very brief stint as captain of the Old Oundelian Rugby team. I was subsequently sent to the Middle East in late 2017 on a two-year secondment, primarily based in Dubai. However, in early 2019, I was sent on secondment again, this time to Saudi Arabia to work with Saudi Aramco as they prepared to undertake an IPO. It was a rather



Henry Gorst rambling

unique experience to say the least! I am now happily back in London, still with Deloitte, living with my girlfriend in our flat in Vauxhall.

Mark Thomas: After leaving Manchester with a Masters in Chemical Engineering, I subsequently wanted to follow in my father's footsteps and so decided to get a further Masters degree in petroleum engineering. This then took me all over the world working in the oil sector. Six months in the small French town of Pau, followed by a year living life to the max in Texas – it was a rollercoaster from start to finish. However, I found myself still wanting more, so turned to a life of investment banking. I now work for Rothschild (ever heard of them?) living in my flat in central London. Life is good.

Max Lyall: After Oundle, I moved to Munich, where I studied Brewing and Beverage Technology and lived for five years. After Munich, I moved to Crested Butte, Colorado, five years ago to study Business and currently live here with my wife Kaitlin, a school teacher, and our cat, Archie.

Kaitlin and I married two years ago, and thoroughly enjoy our life here. I work as a Firefighter and Paramedic in Aspen, and for the Crested Butte Mountain Rescue team. Kaitlin and I spend our winters here skiing and our summers hiking, mountain biking and rafting.

Boris Videnov: After leaving Oundle, I lived in London, Barbados, Zurich and I recently moved back to Sofia. I worked for a large blue chip (Rolls-Royce) and then tried out a start-up, again in the sphere of aviation. Having developed a passion for engineering, I want to try my hand at doing something on my own next. I still find time for sports and would be happy to play a game of tennis with anyone who's willing to.

Tom Zhang: Since my departure from Laundimer house, I studied Mathematics at Cambridge. I met my future wife, Christine, who was a Physics student also at Queens', and we married in 2017 after a six-year love marathon. However, the joy of new marriage was suddenly overrun by the sadness of my father passing

away in the same year due to cancer. The whole family was devastated. It took us a long time to move on, but luckily, we stayed strong, and fully supported each other as a family. In 2019, my wife and I moved to Hong Kong. I am now working for Morgan Stanley as a quantitative strategist. Some say that time flies but for me it was ten years that felt like a lifetime. Looking back, I am glad to think that we made it through, and are now better prepared for our future.

LAXTON

Jennifer Bath: After Oundle, I headed to London to study Human Sciences at UCL. Ten years later, I'm yet to leave and currently living in Dalston in East London. For the last five years I've been working in the tech industry at Depop, a fashion marketplace app. I still meet up with quite a few of the Laxton girls, which is testament to what a good bunch they are.

Georgina Burrows: After spending school trying to determine what kind

of healthcare professional I wanted to be (dentist or physio?), I left Oundle pursuing neither and went to KCL to study Neuroscience instead. I then fell into a medical communications job and worked for several years at various healthcare comms agencies in central London. Following my mid-twenties 'what am I doing with my life' awakening, I went back to university in 2017 to finally do a Physiotherapy Masters and have been working at Guy's and St Thomas' as a physiotherapist since I graduated. Lockdown activities have included borrowing a bike and overcoming my fear of cycling to work ("I think I might buy a bike now, I'm a bike person"), a love/hate relationship with puzzles and gaining an extensive knowledge of all the parks in South London.

Camilla Coates: I spent three years at Durham studying Anthropology. I then moved to London and worked in recruitment for three years before changing careers. I began Teach First in 2016 and taught in a school in Lewisham. After this, I moved to

teach in a school in Surrey, where I am now Head of English. My boyfriend and I recently moved to Surbiton where we have spent much of lockdown re-decorating our house.

Jacob Dillarstone: I opted for a gap year / university / gap year sandwich after Oundle. My gap years were spent travelling, and match betting with Rob Stronach (L 10) and Sebastien Goodall (L 10). In between, I headed to Oxford to study Economics & Management and spent most of my time playing sax in a funk band and dating a rower. Since graduating, I've finished a three-year stint at BCG, and am now working for Ocado Technology, helping them 'change the way the world shops' (though Coronavirus seems to have that one taken care of). As for the next ten years, if I can bring myself to jump, my aspiration is to join or found a startup – mainly so that I can say I didn't peak aged 17 as Managing Director of Oundle Monopoly. But for now, I'm happily living in Cambridge (with the rower, unbelievably she stuck around), have



Georgina Burrows (L), Mala Sood (L), Jess Taylor (W) and Hannah Page (L) at Sophie Wildman Thorn's (L) wedding

swapped the sax for a barbell, and am back in Oundle every month or so to visit my parents (and Beans).

Kara Earl: The last ten years seem to have flown by. On leaving Oundle, I went to Reading University to study Maths (with some History thrown in – I’m still very indecisive!) and I have done further studies at both the University of Cambridge and UCL. All of this led to me becoming both a qualified teacher and special educational needs coordinator. For the past 12 months, I have run the special needs division at a large Cambridgeshire Village College which has been both an exciting and daunting adventure, especially with Covid-19 to manage, too. With connections still in Oundle, I regularly enjoy visiting and, who knows, maybe one day my job will take me back there too!

Sebastien Goodall: After leaving Oundle, I took a year's break to work and travel, heading to Kenya under the illusion that it would make me a good runner. I then spent three fun-filled years in Leeds and one in the US picking up my Economics and Geography degree. After realising I lacked the attention span for a job in banking, the talent to be an Olympian, and that Geography had minimal use in the real world, I joined a tech firm where I now work in sales. I've since spent the last few years working my way around East, South and now West London, living with friends and enjoying my life. I'm hoping that this will continue.

Bridget Hipwell: A decade on from Oundle, it is hard to remember exactly how we felt as we left school for the wide world. I spent the first four years studying Engineering at Cambridge University, packing in as much sport in my spare time as I could. Rugby continued to be my passion and I narrowly missed out on playing at Twickenham in the varsity match against Oxford.

After uni, I moved into a tiny flat in London with Isabel Hudson (L 10). While Iz learnt to be a florist, I spent my days selling coconut water, not a

career I could have predicted!

I now live in North East London, working for an insur-tech start up, and have a little Cockapoo pup called Peanut. My Oundle friends still mean a huge amount to me, I'm very thankful to have you all.

Isabel Hudson: I now live in Hackney with Adam Lee (C 10) – still going a decade later! After leaving Durham University, I went travelling with Grace Buck (N 10) and Ad, before moving to London with Bridget Hipwell (L 10) and becoming a florist. Things started slowly and mostly involved cleaning buckets and being sent to the flower market at 4am. Although I do still occasionally get up at 4am, I now have my own floristry business called Flower and Press – we mostly do weddings and events, with a focus on sustainability. We also press lots of flowers and turn them into floral artworks – a growing part of the business in lockdown.

My friends from Oundle have been a constant source of joy in my life and we see each other regularly in London. I am so proud of what they are all accomplishing.

I look back on Oundle with very happy memories and still come back regularly as my parents live close by.

Rosie Illingworth: I worked in hospitality for a year after Oundle, then studied Theology at Exeter, spending the summers working in Austria as a chalet host and activities manager.

After uni, I worked for the Bishop of Coventry for a year, but missed Exeter too much and returned to spend two years working in administration for the NHS. For the last three years, I have been in Durham, studying for two MAs in Theology (apparently you can never have too many theology degrees), and hope to be ordained in the Church of England in September 2020. I will serve my curacy in Tavistock, back in Devon.

Asim Khalid: After Oundle, I studied Economics at Warwick University, which I thoroughly

enjoyed as well as other activities including the Economics Society, 5-a-side football and cricket in the summer. A few years later, I dived into the world of Finance and joined RBS in the sales & trading division where I specialised in selling corporate bonds to institutional investors. I spent many long years studying for the CFA (finally passed last year!) and then decided I wanted to do strategy consulting, so jumped ship to PwC where I currently consult for banks and insurance companies on strategic engagements. Outside of work, I'm a fond cricketer, playing for Kensington & Chelsea CC every summer and have (apparently) become more of a batsman than a bowler as I was back at Oundle. I am fortunate to still stay in touch with many of the Laxton boys since leaving school and it's safe to say that very little has changed when we are together.

Adele Meads: Just before finishing my degree in Archaeology and Ancient Civilisations at Durham, I decided that I'd rather not spend the rest of my life digging holes, and was going to run away and join the circus. Luckily, I was able to do something less drastic; after helping backstage on almost every play in sixth form, Mr Boag told me that if I ever wanted to work in theatre to get in touch with him and he'd give me advice and a reference. So I did. I then studied Stage and Production Management in Edinburgh, after which I worked in several theatres in Edinburgh, Glasgow and Newcastle. I also – in what will be a shock to any of my art or DT teachers – worked for a set production company, where I trained in Scenic Art. After moving back to the Oundle area, I worked in the Uppingham School theatre I know, I'm sorry. This led to my current job, Theatre Technician at The Leys School, Cambridge, where I create sets and teach students Stage Management and other aspects of technical theatre.

Oliver Norman: I studied Economic History at LSE and somehow ended

◀ up in Guernsey working for Deloitte in audit. Three years later, as a newly qualified Chartered Accountant, I moved back to London into a flatshare with Rob Stronach (L 10) and internally transferred into forensic accounting which I have been doing for the last couple of years. I was set to take a year out from work to go travelling, but unfortunately a global pandemic struck... Luckily, work let me postpone this and, rather bizarrely, I have instead spent the last couple of months setting up drive-through testing sites for the Department of Health. Here's hoping that things will return to normal soon and I can kick on with my travelling plans.

Joanna Ormston: After leaving Oundle, I took a working gap year before swiftly moving to York and spending three wonderful years studying Psychology. After getting my BSc, I moved back to the Shire and now work with a fantastic group of people. I am dating fellow OO, Jake Dunkley (L 08) and we have a lovely house together and a little rescue dog called Lolly. I am still very passionate about the environment, and am one of two environmental officers at work. I am currently looking into how I can explore this passion further to try to make a bigger difference. All in all, a fabulous ten years and am thoroughly looking forward to the next ten!

Hannah Page: After school, I attended the University of Nottingham where I had a wonderful three years studying Classical Civilisation.

Following University, I moved to London and started working at a software company. I met my husband Alex in 2014 and we travelled around Asia together in 2016. After returning, I decided to switch careers and started working in Marketing. I now work as a marketing manager to a small team in a French agency, splitting my time between London and Paris.

Mala Sood: It is hard to believe that ten years have passed since I was a culottes-wearing, pink-card fearing, sports-avoiding pupil. Safe to say I still have an immense aversion to team sports, but Oundle certainly prepared me for a lifetime of studying. It was no secret that I had my sights set on medical school when I was at Oundle. In the ten years that have elapsed since Leavers' assembly in 2010, I have completed my Masters in Pharmacy at UCL, lived on the Upper East Side in New York while carrying out research at Mount Sinai, School of Medicine, and worked as a Pharmacist whilst completing my Medical degree at Kings College London this year. It took me a while and the journey was somewhat unexpected, but I got there! I am now working as a junior doctor in Peterborough City Hospital, and it feels good to be home.

Miranda Spencer: I took a year out to work and travel, visiting India and South Africa, before heading to The University of St Andrews to study Biology, graduating in 2015. I then moved to London where I lived for just under three years working for Amazon's marketplace business. While in London I met my partner, a New Zealander, and in 2018 I moved with him to Wellington. New Zealand was a place I had only been to once before on the 2008 Oundle Hockey Tour. From this trip we all had vivid memories of the town of Rotorua with its pungent smell of eggs from the geothermal activity surrounding the town, which funnily enough turned out to be my partner's home town. Here in Wellington, I worked for the New Zealand government for one and a half years before moving to work for Ernst & Young as a Manager in their consulting practice specialising in the government and public sector. I have loved exploring New Zealand with plenty of running, hiking and camping. A highlight was Harry Spencer's (L 10) visit when we toured the North Island in a caravan ticking off many of New Zealand's incredibly scenic hikes and delicious

fish and chip shops. Miss Goatly will be pleased to hear that I have kept up some form of sport and I run for Wellington Harriers athletics club, competing regularly and have even had a go at a couple of triathlons.

Harriet Story: Following school, I went on to complete an MSci degree in Natural Sciences, followed by a PhD in Biological Chemistry, both at UCL. After all of that, I decided life in a lab wasn't for me, but couldn't bring myself to venture too far away from scientific discovery as I started my career commercialising healthcare inventions at Imperial Innovations. A year later, I landed my dream job; a 50/50 split role for Cancer Research UK and UCL Business, translating university/ NHS research into patient benefit (it's as broad as it sounds)! I can STILL be found kicking about London with my school sweetheart, Patrick Webster (B 10), and dozens of OO friends made both during and after school. Shortly after our ten-year anniversary, Pat and I bought our first flat together in Clapham Junction which we share with a familiar face, Jamie Budgett (F 10)!

Robert Stronach: In summer 2010 I was asked to join the GB Snowboarding Junior Team after some good competition results. I spent six months "training" in Whistler, then studied at Warwick University. Fortunately, my grad job at Barclays in London started a year after I graduated, so I squeezed in a second season at Whistler, before finally accepting I would never be a professional snowboarder. After threatening to start my own business for several years, I successfully applied to join a start-up incubator. It kicked off in March and my team has just received £120k of investment to build our product. Outside work, I'm grateful to still see the Laxton boys most weeks and I also finally sorted a decent haircut.

Charlotte Travill: After graduating from Manchester with a degree in Chinese Studies, I took a brief tour back to the Orient working for an art

gallery in Hong Kong. However, my heart belonged to the UK and after moving back to London, I joined the NHS and have been working as an operational manager ever since. I am currently working in a busy central London A&E department which keeps me on my toes. I love seeing my Oundle and Laxton friends, and look forward to many more years of friendship!

Holly Wake: After Oundle, I studied Psychology at Durham University. Following this, I did a Masters in Forensic Psychology at Kings College London. I then worked for several years in mental health services providing support to adults and young people involved in the criminal justice system. I am now in my second year of my doctorate degree and will qualify as a Clinical Psychologist next Autumn. I live in South West London with my fiancé Michael Outar (L 06). We plan to get married in the School chapel next summer.

Sophie Walker: On leaving school, I went to Cambridge University, ostensibly to study History, but I rather suspect a lot more time was spent on the sports pitches than in any library! After three blissful years, filled with tennis, punting and the odd lecture, I was struck by the malaise, common among newly-graduated arts students, known as “how on earth can I get a job with a humanities degree” syndrome. Not yet ready to confront the world of ‘real work’, I took a gap year. However, a month without hair straighteners, backpacking around China swiftly affirmed that the life of the free spirit was not for me. Trading in board shorts for the boardroom, I gratefully entered the ordered world of corporate law and have not looked back. I am now a litigator at Allen & Overy, where I’ve worked for the past four and a half years.

I live in Hackney, but frequently return to Oundle to visit my mum and for OO Multisports weekends. Ten years on, I still feel very connected to the School through the lovely friends I made there and the various OO events, particularly OO tennis. Apart from

culottes and Saturday lessons, I have very happy memories of my time there.

Todd Whitby: I spent three enjoyable years reading History and Politics at the University of Nottingham. Despite devoting a huge amount of my time to the university library, I continued to enjoy playing football for both the University XI and a local non-league team. Following my time in Nottingham and a brief stint travelling around South America, I moved to London to head to law school. Currently, I am a lawyer at Fieldfisher LLP specialising in derivatives, trading and structured finance. I also spend around half of my working week on secondment at Citi, focusing on derivatives in emerging markets. Whilst I have managed to continue playing lots of sport outside of the office, most of my spare time is currently spent with my fiancée, Marion, planning our wedding in Normandy next year.

Sophie Wildman Thorn: After Oundle, I travelled west to the Cotswolds and attended the University of Gloucestershire where I received a First in Marketing and met my now-husband, Michael, during freshers’ week.

On graduating, we bought our first house in Cheltenham and started renovating, and I jumped straight into crazy agency life at Havas.

A few years later, I moved in-house to work at GAME in trade marketing. I loved it and by the time I left I was looking after all three of their big suppliers – Xbox, PlayStation and Nintendo – which was pretty cool, with my biggest achievement being the launch of the Xbox One X.

Michael and I got married in September 2017 at Eastnor Castle in Ledbury and we honeymooned in the south of Italy.

I’ve now come full-circle and work for the University of Gloucestershire in marketing – a job that has allowed me to have a real work-life balance, meaning we adopted a Finnish Lapphund puppy,

Fox. Oh, and yes, he does have his own Instagram page – for._fox._sake.

NEW HOUSE

Grace Buck: I graduated from Christ Church, Oxford in 2013 with a degree in History and subsequently spent a year trying to work out what to do, travelling around Australia & Indonesia with Izzi Hudson (L 10). Amazingly, Izzi and I remain friends after driving down the entire East Coast of Australia in a camper van with just one Taylor Swift CD to listen to. I’ve spent the six years since marketing a more and less glamorous array of products: from ice cream, bleach, shampoo and hairspray at Unilever to more recently football boots at Nike where I am the Brand Marketing Manager for UK Football. I live in Pimlico with my boyfriend & now dress exclusively in sports kit. I still spend most of my time with friends from Oundle and am so very proud of the talented, kind, amazing people I found there. I will be forever grateful to Oundle for those friendships.

Jess Eastwell: After a gap year playing at being a journalist in Bolivia, I went to the University of Leicester, where I gained a First in English. I now live on Merseyside with my husband Kieran, who I married in 2019, and our cat, Morag. While being diagnosed with CFS/ME in 2015 was a significant setback, I now work as a combination writer, actor, musician and occasional translator, as symptoms permit. I seem to spend most of my spare time working on various textile art, and wondering if there’s any reason I couldn’t have a small flock of sheep in the back garden, despite the council’s objections!

Montana Gerry: I went on to study English Literature and French at the University of Exeter, and spent a year abroad in Paris working for the International New York Times. After graduating, I cut my teeth in PR at a London-based PR agency for five years before becoming Head of PR at ►

◀ **Beam**, a social enterprise that supports homeless people into work. I'm currently living in South West London with my fiancé David. We'd planned to get married in June this year, but coronavirus has meant we've postponed until summer 2021. I'm still great friends with the wonderful Emily Twaite (N 10) who I try to visit as much as possible in Bristol and who will be at our wedding next year.

Hannah Gliksten: After graduating from Oxford University with a degree in Classics, I worked as a teaching assistant and then trained with Teachfirst. Since then, I have been working as an English teacher in Wembley. It's been an adventure and I'm pleased to call this my vocation. In August, I plan to begin a Masters in Expert Teaching. I have remained close with my wonderful friends from school.

Imi Harris: After Oundle, I studied at Durham University followed by a Masters at Kings College London. Whilst at University, I competed in Ironman UK twice, having very much caught the Ironman bug. I moved to Exeter and worked for a Surf and Ski company followed by a ski season in the Alps. I have spent the last five years as a financial analyst with Joules plc and live with my fiancé who I am marrying next year.

Tilly Heggie: Leaving Oundle, I went straight to the University of Leeds and spent a happy six years there studying a bit of Medicine, but mostly playing rugby culminating in representing and captaining Yorkshire. Having completed my medical degree (with an extra year of Sports science thrown in for fun), I moved down to Plymouth to complete my foundation years and had a fantastic few years of BBQs on the beaches and exploring Dartmoor – when shifts allowed. I am now starting my career in Obstetrics and Gynaecology in Newcastle. When not pulling babies out or looking down dark places, I love being outside. and since leaving school have found a love for running and

try to drag Imi Harris (N 10), Grace Buck (N 10), Bridget Hipwell (L 10) and Izzi Hudson (L 10) and anyone else I can persuade on long runs along the British coastline.

Zoe Kier: After Oundle, I went on to study Sport and Exercise Science at Cardiff Metropolitan University. Following this I worked as a personal trainer and a sports massage therapist before starting a job with Nuffield Health as a Physiologist. I escaped for a delayed gap year at the age of 25 with my boyfriend. We visited South East Asia, travelled across Australia and followed the rugby British and Irish Lions around New Zealand. Luckily for me, Nuffield Health took me back when I returned a year later in need of money. I ticked the London Marathon off my bucket list in 2015 and now enjoy mixing running with travel, having completed Paris and Copenhagen half marathons last year. Covid-19 has put a spanner in the works for this year's plans! I have just finished my first year of training to become a Physician Associate at the University of Surrey. This is not too far from where I now live with my boyfriend - who I met while studying in Cardiff - and our three chickens Noodle, Nugget and Zazu.

Kate Legh: After graduating from the University of Oxford in 2013 with a degree in History, I taught History in South Croydon for two years on the Teach First programme. I now work as a barrister in London and live in Hackney.

Serena Pottinger: Having read Spanish & French at Bristol, I moved out to Singapore to work for an Amazon-like start-up before settling back in London to work as a management consultant. My hobbies haven't changed much – I'm still a keen cook, love travelling and am plotting my next adventure when freedom is granted to us. I am living with James Duncalfe (C 10) and curing meats together, as well as being regularly in touch with fellow New House girls.

Juliet Ramsden: Since graduating in 2013 (History of Art, Clare College Cambridge), I completed a Fine Art Foundation in London. I now work for a rare book and print dealer in St James's which gives me the opportunity for exciting travel in the US and elsewhere.

Emily Twaite: I studied Mechanical Engineering at the University of Bristol. After I graduated I qualified as a Chartered Accountant at PwC, and I now work as a Financial Accountant for Loungers PLC. I live in Bristol with my partner Tom, and we recently bought a house in need of renovation and have been working on that over the past year. I joined the modern jive society at university and have been dancing competitively and socially ever since, the highlight of which was our team winning the World Modern Jive Championships in 2014! I also keep in regular touch with Montana Gerry (N 10), and no year would be complete without a ski trip with Francis Kwong (C 10).

Alice Wilson: Following an English literature degree at Trinity College Dublin, I worked at a design consultancy in London, while starting a youth program there to get young people into the creative industries. I then had a bit of a career change and worked as a chef at Hawksmoor Borough, before starting my own place. I now run a takeaway in South London funded by Guy's and St Thomas's Charity as part of their Childhood Obesity Program.

SANDERSON

Iona Darroch: I took a year out to travel before starting at the University of Liverpool to study Veterinary Science. Once qualified, I worked in mixed and equine practice in the North of England before returning to Liverpool to complete an internship in Equine Medicine and Surgery at the University of Liverpool Equine Hospital. Since finishing there, I have been locum-ing up and down the country.

When at home, I am based in



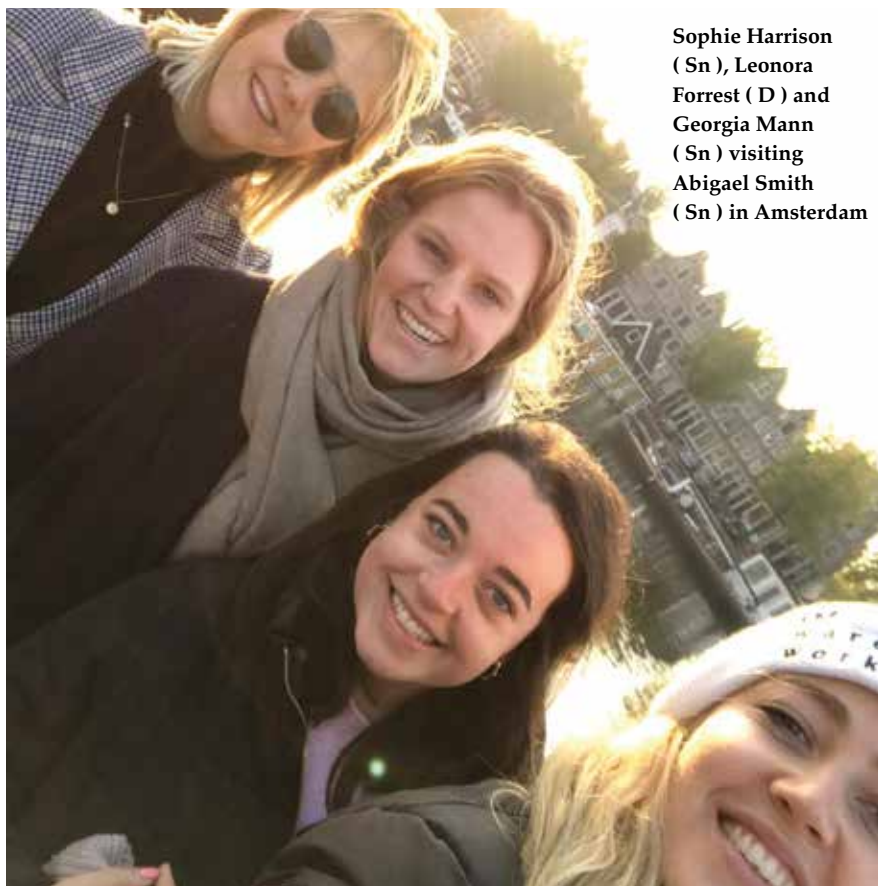
Abigael Smith (Sn), Poppy McMullan (Sn), Laura Miles (W), Celia Scruby (W), George Lake (St A), Jack Napier (Sc), Harriet Wildgoose (W), Leonora Forrest (D) and Cosima Gibbs (Sn) on Georgia Mann (Sn) wedding day

Cheshire with a chicken-farming fiancé and our two dogs. We are planning to get married in August – albeit with only 30 guests. Cheers corona!

Sophie Harrison: After leaving school, I trundled north to Newcastle University – with half the cohort of 2009 Oundle leavers – to study French (and Linguistics – goodness knows why), spending a year in Paris. After graduating, I returned home to live with my (delighted) parents for three years, while working for an events management agency, where I further advanced my organisational and bossing-about capabilities. I finally made the move to London and temporarily moved in with my boyfriend of four months (again, delighted). Over three years later, I’ve never left and we’re patiently waiting for our postponed wedding date.

I’m now working in Sports Sponsorship, primarily across Formula 1 and motorsport, as well as the Invictus Games – I like to think I figured out my career path all those years ago, spending hours on the cricket boundary rope or the Two Acre touchline.

I love seeing my 3By girls as often as possible, and keep in touch with



Sophie Harrison (Sn), Leonora Forrest (D) and Georgia Mann (Sn) visiting Abigael Smith (Sn) in Amsterdam

the Sanderson gang dotted around the world. Lucky to have met some of the most wonderful friends during my Oundle years.

Sarah Kemp: After leaving Oundle, Cosima Gibbs (Sn 10) Abi Smith (Sn 10) and I travelled to South East Asia to ‘find ourselves’ before

Sanderson Girls - Sophie Harrison, Sarah Kemp, Amber Caplan, Cosima Gibbs, Poppy McMullan and Georgia Mann



◀ heading off to university. I spent four glorious years at Newcastle with Poppy McMullan (Sn 10) learning the business theory that landed me a job in consulting. I now specialise in retail consultancy and am working to try and improve the dire situation of our much-loved retail brands in any small way. I live in south west London with friends and hope to move abroad with my boyfriend at some point, perhaps following in the footsteps of Georgia Mann (Sn 10) and ending up in Sydney.

Georgia Mann: After Oundle, I went on to Leeds to read Drama and freely admit to hating 'unay'. Following a couple of years living and working in London, I moved to Australia via a long overdue 'gap year' in Vietnam, Cambodia and Bali. I fell in love with

Sydney and an Aussie! We got married in Suffolk last year and are expecting our first baby in January. I am an interior designer here in Sydney. Whilst I miss my family and friends so much, I see them as much as possible. Who knows where we will end up - Aus or England but the Oundle girls are still my closest friends. In January I climbed Kilimanjaro for charity and was pretty proud to get to the top.

Abigail Smith: After leaving Oundle, I took a year out to travel before going to the University of Kent to study Theology where I spent three great years. Two weeks after graduation, I moved to Amsterdam for what I thought was going to be a two-month internship – however, six years later I have now set up my life

here living with my boyfriend Shane and working at an advertising agency called 72andSunny where I work on clients such as Adidas, Axe and Google.

SCHOOL

Jamie Ball: "Ten years already? Pull the other one Brooky," was my first thought when hearing the figure. Then upon reflection, I realised he wasn't lying. I have fond memories of my time at Oundle. Spreading the gospel of rock with Xavier, Jiramate and Sam at Rocsoc springs to mind, as well as being a featured drummer for Mr Smith at the Oundle leg of his 'guitar madness' tour. Fortunately, my regrets are minimal. I mainly wish I hadn't invested so much time into Fives. I haven't found a team in Dalston yet. Also, Bronze DofE has yet to show its value.

Otherwise, having worked in various jobs over the years (PR, catering, crypto broker) I found my feet in music (see why above). I have since been working at a production company. That being said, COVID threw a spanner in the works mid-April, but I will rise again.

Henry Brook: After leaving Oundle and finding myself in India, I somewhat sheep-like flocked to Manchester University to read economics and politics. Working for an MP in Yorkshire and a car manufacturer in India led me to the only logical place of reinsurance in the city which involves lots of travelling to the US. Still playing Ramblers cricket and keen on anything with a bat or ball involved, lockdown 2020 has got me very much into veg growing – watch out Monty Don.

Matt Oliver: I went to study Chemistry at Bristol, where I spent three great years. Once I'd graduated, I decided to stay in Bristol a little longer. During this time, I'd go on to play regularly in the 16th tier of English football for little known local side Horfield United – which is about as dire as it sounds. After three more wonderful years in the South West, I

finally moved on to London to pursue my dream of finding a girlfriend. Since then I've been working for a French cycling clothing company, running their website, which allows me to enjoy three of my favourite things: cycling, trips to France, and lycra.

Will Street: What have I achieved since I left school? Ermm I'm a qualified accountant, which came after studying agriculture and then doing a Masters in animal behaviour and welfare at uni, which was an excuse for four pleasant and quiet years in the North of England. I still play a load of cricket, and turn out for the Oundle Rovers Cricket Club whenever I can. Apart from that, I live in Sheffield and since lockdown have developed an unhealthy obsession with baking.

Greg Whitaker: Following a gap year in South America, I studied History at Newcastle University. I then followed the crowds down to London and completed a law conversion course. I now work as a solicitor in Latham & Watkins' Restructuring & Special Situations team, which has certainly been an interesting place to be as the COVID-19 pandemic has unfolded. I live in Putney with my girlfriend and am neither engaged nor married! When not at work, I spend my time running, cycling and sailing.

Will Winterton: After leaving Oundle, I went to Exeter Uni to read History and Politics. At Uni, I did lots of part-time bar work at sports matches and music festivals. I briefly ran my own events business before joining the wine trade, and have been at Cru World Wines for the last six years. I spent a year and a half working in our Singapore office, but I am now back living in South London. I am one of the main buyers, which is a great job that involves travelling to some incredible places and drinking well.

SIDNEY

Sam Bowers: I spent some time teaching in Nepal with Tom Campbell-Moffat (B 10); and tomb raiding in Cambodia with Ellie Hiskett (K 10). I

then moved to sunny LA to attend the University of Southern California, where I learned to longboard, joined a fraternity, got a degree in International Relations, and never saw the rain... ever. Post-college, I spent a couple of years in marketing, then completed the Mongol Rally in 2017 which spanned 24 countries, and about 19,000 miles. I visited Phillip Begak (C 10) in Moscow on the way back, before we finally jettisoned our noble steed in a Finnish scrap yard, and now I'm back in NY working in wealth management and hiding from COVID. I've enjoyed visits from a few Oundle folks including Tom Markland (S 10) and George Bartlett (StA 10), but I definitely hope to see more of you by the twenty-year mark and am excited to hear what's new.

Harry Coulthard: Studied Archaeology and Anthropology at Manchester. Produced films and commercials with Devilishly Handsome Productions, made watches with Ed Tweddle (S 10), founded Shorts Boy Distillery in Jersey making The Tidal Rum, and running a creative consultancy called Boulder with Ed (Boulder). Living in the Outer Hebrides at the moment.

Andy Fahrenheim: After a year out in which I followed common gap year tropes, I then branched out by going to university, law school, and am now a solicitor focusing on venture capital investment and start-up funding. I live in north London with my girlfriend and, due to the lockdown, my hair is currently a throwback to my '08 Oundelian perm.

Ben Hay: Since leaving, slightly before my time, I have lived for stretches in Brighton, Edinburgh and London. I work in a pretty fun if not slightly arduous job in design, am still largely friends with the same people as when I was 14 and my love of cricket is unchanged; it has all been very agreeable.

Rory O'Kelly-Lynch: Ten years on I have found love, a great job and a happy life. However, I am yet to find a better doner kebab than Spices.

Andi Leung: I went to University College London to study Economics. As with too many early student careers, I started my working life in the city at RBS. Alongside, I was working part-time with a couple of my university friends on a new collaborative creative writing game, HaikuJAM. After two years in RBS, I decided to 'jump ship' to work on the start up full-time. As we had many users in South East Asia, we decided to relocate to Mumbai in 2017 and raised investment to grow. We're now working on a new product called Inspo, a search engine for inspiration.

Due to Covid-19, I'm now back in Hong Kong. Once the pandemic subsides, I'll be splitting my time between India and Hong Kong.

Tom Markland: Following on from Oundle, I went on to Bristol University, studying initially in Biochemistry and then a Masters in Economics, Accounting and Finance. Like a great migration, everyone appeared to be moving to London and, swept up by this, so did I. Initially living in Oval and Stockwell, before making an adventurous move to Battersea last year – very slowly meandering up the Thames. Having started work at the Bank of England, I am now a civil servant, focused most recently on public spending.

Will Marks: I spent a year working as a language assistant in the North of France before attending the University of East Anglia to study Modern Foreign Languages. In this time, I continued my love of theatre by joining one of the only continuous French Theatre troupes in the UK. After UEA, I joined the teaching community and began in Peterborough. In what little free time the state education system leaves, I enjoy running, including half marathons, and up-skilling in languages and digital media. I run podcasts and a language-based YouTube channel.

Ed Tweddle: After school, I studied in Leeds and Newcastle. Fell into a job in the Lloyds Insurance market. Got very bored. Started a watch

◀ brand. Sold one or two (maybe three) watches. Joined Ogilvy as a Creative. Made some ads. I now head up creative for a made-to-measure menswear brand and am launching a creative consultancy called Boulder with Harry Coulthard (S 10).

I currently live in south London with my girlfriend, Lisa. Still looking for a bloody band. Jack Doolan - can you please answer your phone?

WYATT

Alice Burns: Despite being adamant I wouldn't fall into the 'gap yah' trap, I left Oundle to embark on a year of travel before joining the University of Leeds. Up north, I spent three years clubbing in edgy venues, but did manage to leave with a degree in History of Art and a refreshed perspective on life. I moved home to London, pursuing photography initially – working at London Fashion Week – followed by a bit of writing for the likes of Time Out magazine. I then fell into the PR world and am currently working on Bacardi Ltd. brands at Ogilvy UK. Wine is one of my biggest passions (not just drinking it) and I hold several WSET tasting qualifications. I live with my boyfriend in Peckham, which is the perfect location for the wine bar I dream of opening. Will report back on that in ten years' time...

Rachel Dobbs: After Oundle, I took not-one-but-two gap years before reading PPE at Oxford, where I was a truly terrible student. After a series of uninspiring jobs, I became a journalist, mostly writing for *The Economist*. I love it. I spent the last year as a foreign correspondent covering the Baltics, based in Estonia. I'm now nominally back in the UK, working on a book on the humanitarian impact of climate change. I am broke, single, and mainly live out of a suitcase.

Rachel Fleming: I travelled to South America to teach English and drink Fernet in small-town Argentina. I went on to read Spanish and Arabic

at Exeter, spending my year abroad in Cairo where I funded desert trips and hot air balloon rides over the Valley of the Kings by singing in a 70s themed Egyptian wedding band. From there I clambered onto the Teach First bandwagon, moving to Leeds for two years to "teach" Spanish and French (my pupils taught me more than I taught them). Deciding I hadn't spent enough time at uni or enough of my parents' money on education, I moved to London to do an MA in social work. I'm now living and working in south London as a children's social worker, which is fascinating and exhausting in equal measure; consequently, I haven't given much thought yet to what the next ten years will bring!

Izzy Gray: After leaving Oundle, I went to Newcastle University – my time at both of these institutions was fine, although some might argue I could've worked harder. Despite my slight apathy towards education, I very luckily found my niche when I started working for TJX Europe (TKMaxx). I started out in merchandise planning, but after a few years moved into the buying function where I am currently a womenswear buyer. In 2016, my passion for fashion (at 60% off RRP) caught the eye of a colleague and since then we've split our time between London and Düsseldorf (where he is from). We've recently bought our first home together in Maida Vale however, so will now be putting down more permanent roots in London.

Victoria Lee: Wanting the most practical degree I could get, naturally I opted for Classics at Cambridge. As I flipped through the torn edges of the Homeric texts in the Girton College library, I laid eyes on Andrew Stone whilst he laughed at YouTube clips of dogs dining like humans – and I thought, "I'm going to marry that man." After university, the need for a profession hit me and I took a training contract with Slaughter and May in London, qualifying as a lawyer into the Financial Regulation Group. I am

now European General Counsel at Virtu Financial, a global financial services firm. In light of a certain pandemic, I won't be getting married to Andrew in Italy until June next year (thanks COVID!)

Tabitha Luxmoore-Styles: After school with Leonora Forrest (D 10) Jamie Budgett (F 10) and Alice Wilson (N 10) we travelled to Gilgil, Kenya – collecting our fair share of unpredictable adventures: those featuring Class of 2010ers include being stranded in a monsoon with Ali Humphries (G 10), Hamish Sandison and Theo Cowper (Ldr 10), and bumping into Sam Waterhouse (StA 10) watching the Royal Wedding coverage. I moved to Exeter University for the open-minded Theology dept – covering topics like the role of women in the Bible, disability in the gospels, and was Jesus gay? Learnings from these lecturers and Exeter's innovation centre have informed a number of my career decisions to date. I spent a year after graduation working in Nancy and Paris only to be enticed back to the UK to work for a third start-up, a food company – let's pretend it was the allure of the business not the free ice-cream that clinched it. I now work near St Paul's Cathedral at Smith & Williamson in the Entrepreneurial Services team, specialising in Fintech, as well as running S&W's Female Founder program, which I love. Highlights from last summer include being bridesmaid to sister Lily (W 09) & maid of honour to Georgia Mann (Sn 10)!

Georgie Mason: After leaving school, I did an Art Foundation followed by an English, Art & Art History degree. Since then I have been making and selling art relatively full-time, injected with sporadic work as a copy-editor, PR person, envelope stuffer and covers band singer. I have had work exhibited at the Royal Academy, the Museum of Goa, and been a guest lecturer at Queen Mary University. I'm fortunate and unfortunate to spend much of my time alone, amongst animals, foliage and



Victoria Lee (W),
Jennifer Bath (L),
Georgina Burrows (L),
Izzi Hudson (L),
Harriet Story (L),
Hannah Page (L)
and Charlotte Travill (L)

poly tunnels, as my studio is on a London city farm. I enjoy teaching art workshops from here as well as at various festivals and events. Last year, I co-founded MasterPeace Creative Studios, a mindful art venture in Belgravia offering guests of any experience level the opportunity to create beautiful works of art, taught by professionals. Other hobbies/ obsessions include Forro, a Brazilian dance, which I do with fellow OO Fran Denny (D 10), and making shiny mudballs. I am happily married to one of the farm goats.

Insta: @georgiesmason

Web: georgiemason.co.uk

Sophia MacAskill: After studying at Oxford, I followed the path reserved for most English Literature graduates and became an English teacher – with a slice of Latin on the side for good measure. Deciding that job security and lengthy holidays were not enough, I briefly sojourned as a deputy housemistress at an all-girls school in Harrogate, before moving to London to seek my fortune. I eventually got a position at Literary Agency Ed Victor Ltd. where I worked for six months. I now work at Literary and Talent Agency, Curtis Brown where I assist a book agent and help

run the newly-founded Original Audio and Podcast Department. When not reading manuscripts or searching for the next true crime podcast sensation, I side hustle as a wedding invitation designer and pop art portraitist. Rather unoriginally, I am also working on my first novel, in the hope that I can become a writer and leave London for the country way of life... where I started.

Laura Miles: After travelling in South America with OO, Poppy McMullan (Sn 10), the so-called ‘bug’ certainly hit and three years on I was still hassling anybody with the misfortune of mentioning an interest to let me have fun creating overly-detailed and extensive travel itineraries for them. Realising you can be paid to do so, I headed to London and after a first visit to Africa, became unequivocally obsessed – so have worked as an Africa travel specialist ever since. I pinch myself that work constitutes spending a month every year ‘on research’ in Africa and I now work for The Ultimate (by name and nature, of course) Travel Company... where I look forward to getting all of your honeymoon enquiries soon! Before coming to London, I studied Sociology at Manchester University – even,

somehow, wangling a dissertation on the tourism industry of Bali into my degree. I’ve lived, until very recently, with aforementioned OO and original travel buddy, Pops, and am still loving life in the sweet safety net that is south London.

Faye Priestley: I returned to the homeland (the north) to read English and Philosophy at York. When the drinks tokens ran out, the realisation set in that there was no obvious path to employment with my newly acquired ‘soft’ skills. The Erin Brockovich movie had been stuck in my laptop for all of second year and things snowballed from there. I ended up converting to Law and taking up a training contract in the city. On my first day in 2015, I sat next to a very handsome man with whom I still work but also now live, in south London. Life is good – but nothing like Erin Brockovich! I still rate a mid-morning crisp bun and feel slightly nervous when walking on a well-kept lawn. Thanks, Oundle.

Clare Robertson: Like many before me, I took a year out to travel and ‘find myself’. I then went on to study Music at Durham before moving down to London. After six months of ►

◀ part-timing and wondering if that Harry Potter module had been the best use of my time, I started working at an independent music publisher. Four speedy years later, I made the move to Andrew Lloyd Webber's Really Useful Group where I now work on all things business development and can legitimately chat about musicals all day and call it work! A year south of the river was long enough for me and I'm now happy to call myself a cinema-loving, piano-playing North Londoner.

Celia Scruby: Rocking up for my first term at York was a bit of a surprise. York had simply been UCAS fodder – I had no intention of actually going. And then hello! there I was one sunny October morning. I had fun, read books, made friends and left with no idea of what I wanted to do. University completed. Then I did what any good Oundelian would...used nepotism. I successfully hit up some PR and journalism 'internships' to pad out my C.V. and this gave me enough credibility to blag myself a job in Santiago, Chile as a news reporter which was weird, wonderful and everything in between. Eventually, I moved back to London to get a 'real' job in... (wait for it...) advertising. The years passed, I ran a few marathons, became a yoga teacher on the side and now I work for The British Red Cross as a product development manager in its fundraising innovation team, essentially a charity incubator program.

Jess Taylor: I took a gap year and spent my time getting lost in India. Finally finding myself, I returned to study at Exeter. I did a BSc in Psychology and went on to do an MA in Special Educational Needs.

Having never really displayed any sporting prowess at school whatsoever, I joined ultimate frisbee on a whim at uni and I now regularly compete at international level. I'm creator and captain of the women's alumni team and we've won two national gold medals and competed at European Championships.

Unfortunately, I don't get paid to play so I've had to do some "adulthood" and get a real job. Having had a few

different roles in hospitality and social care, I eventually found something I love working for South West Ambulance in their frequent caller team where I contribute to the support of vulnerable patients.

I still volunteer every summer for the Oundle Mencap Holiday and am excited to take on the role of Epilepsy Lead in the medical team next year.

I'm looking forward to moving from Exeter to Bristol soon, and seeing where I'll be in another decade's time.

Harriet Wildgoose: I spent three years at Durham University studying Economics. I then went to the Sorbonne in Paris to study French before travelling around the world with four friends. For six years now I've lived in London, working as an equity research analyst in the City. I happily live in Stoke Newington with my boyfriend where we have recently bought our first home. We are in the market for a blue staffy pup, if anyone knows a good breeder! ■



Georgie Mason (W)



Finding John Eldred

Elsbeth Langsdale is touched by a story which shows the long-lasting impact of an act of bravery

Every Oundelian has a story and for the past six years it has been my privilege as the School Archivist to listen, read and record these stories. What I have also learned is that wherever you are in the world, it seems an Old Oundelian can turn up out of the blue.

Last December when I was in Cork visiting my family, my sister phoned and very excitedly told me, "Hurry up, turn on the radio and listen to RTE Live with Joe Duffy. He's talking about an Oundelian". For the next half an hour I sat quietly, listening to "Looking for John Eldred" and was once more touched by an Old Oundelian's story.

Mary Thompstone had phoned in to the radio programme wanting to find a man called John Eldred, who had saved her mother, Anastacia O'Donoghue, from drowning off the beach at Cahore, Co. Wexford. Not only had he saved her life, but his bravery went on to have a long-lasting impact on her. She went on to spend

her life trying to find John again after that summer but was unsuccessful and sadly, she passed away in 2016. Mary then took up the quest and wanted to see if any of the listeners could help.

As it happened, an old family friend of John's heard the show and immediately telephoned John to tell him about it. John was completely surprised as it happened such a long time ago. He wrote to the Archive, "That phone call resulted in my being on the radio program the next day and introduced to Mary on air - which completely bowled her over. "Since then, John has written about what happened on that fortunate Summer's day:

It was late afternoon and we were in my parents' room when we heard a girl outside shouting for help. Her sister was drowning and she was extremely distressed. My father said, "Run down to the beach and see if there's anything you can do", so I ran down as fast as I could, got to the

beach and saw three chaps who I took to be young farmers. They were standing together by the water's edge looking out to sea at someone maybe 200 or 300 yards out. It was a girl throwing up her arms and crying out for help. When I reached the lads, they said "Can you swim?" I said "Yes". "Can you save her?" I replied, "Yes" and started to strip off. They set to, taking off my shoes, socks, shirt, trousers down to my underpants, and said, 'Go, GO!' In I went and struck out. I was fit and a good swimmer, so it didn't take me long to reach her. I wasn't sure what to expect, thinking she might be panicky and try to climb onto me, but in fact she was quite calm. Remembering my life saving lessons at Oundle, I turned her around to put her back to me with my back to the beach and started leg kicking with her in tow. It surprised me how calm she was, considering what she had been through.

I learned later that she was Anastasia Donahue, 24, a nurse; her sister was Rita, 17. They had decided to go for a dip in the sea, not realising how steeply it shelved down, and Rita got out of her depth. Ana rushed in and pushed her to the shore, but then the strong current took hold and Ana could do nothing about it. The two sisters were country girls who had never been taught to swim, just like the three farm lads who couldn't swim either. While I was rescuing her, she asked if I was drowning and if so to leave her and save myself. I found this quite remarkable as she must have been desperate, cold and probably expecting to die. I told her not to worry, that we would be all right. Then she started to paddle and that got us along much faster - so fast that the current whipped my underpants off! But I remember telling myself that I had more important things to worry about and kept kicking. Eventually we were in breakers and I knew we had arrived at the beach when my feet touched sand. Many hands came forward and lifted Ana out. I left them and went looking for my clothes which I saw were about 100 yards away, such was the strength of the current.

Back at the hotel, my father suggested we go to the local pub for a

celebratory drink. It was a typical Irish country pub and the Guinness was flowing. It was full of local people and some started looking my way. Then one came over and said, 'Are you the young man who saved Ana from drowning? I'd like to shake you by the hand'. Then one by one all the others followed. I was hugely touched, flattered and proud. Ana had been taken to a local farmhouse to recover and still had my father's jacket which he had put over her to keep her warm, and we needed to retrieve his wallet. The farmhouse was packed with locals in full Irish party mode. We collected the wallet and left.' "

Since they 'met' over the airwaves, Mary and John have kept in contact and John hopes to visit Ireland when it is safe and possible to do so. John says, "My appearance out of the blue has given the family much pleasure and they are very keen for a meeting and a joint visit to the scene of the rescue."

During her first appearance on the radio show, Mary had said that their whole family had grown up knowing the story of John's life-saving heroics. She was keen to talk about how his brave action had such a positive and long-lasting effect on Ana and all her family. It had influenced the way they were brought up and how they have gone about their lives. She felt it was important to remember that acts of kindness often have a lasting impact. ■

▼ School Gymnastics team, 1951



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Kiln Theatre

Tessa Stanley Price (N 04), Director of Fundraising at Kiln Theatre, tells us about its mission to challenge and provoke

17 March 2020 might be the strangest day that British theatres have ever collectively experienced. Following the Prime Minister's afternoon statement that 'public venues such as theatres should no longer be visited', front-of-house managers across the country found themselves moving through bustling foyers at 7pm telling surprised patrons that the building would be closing indefinitely and they would have to go home.

At Kiln Theatre in North-West London, we had already pressed pause on our run of *Pass Over* by Antoinette Nwandu. Two days earlier, one of our cast had developed a cough and a fever and we closed our doors to the public for what we imagined would be 14 days. Little did we know! I write this (from home) on a hot July day nearly four months later and we are still a long way from reopening for public performances. It will likely be a full year before theatres are able to operate under any semblance of normality.

These are dangerous, febrile times for performing arts organisations. Complete hibernation until 2021 simply isn't possible; the closure of our theatre doesn't mean all our expenditure stops too. Even with maximum use of the furlough scheme and diligent cost control, we have unavoidable monthly outgoings. As

Kiln Theatre's Director of Fundraising, I am painfully aware of how every day matters in the race to secure the funds that will ensure our survival.

And survive we must, for the sake of our mission: to bring unheard voices into the mainstream, to show the world through different lenses and to be a place where everyone feels welcomed and entitled. This mission statement is the reason I applied to work at Kiln Theatre, formerly known as the Tricycle. The productions we stage, almost all of them new writing, shine a spotlight on fundamental, often challenging issues within society. *Pass Over*, our production cut short by COVID-19, is a prophetic case in point. The play, about two young black men 'in a world that refuses to see them', deals unflinchingly with racism and police brutality. The set – an American street corner – now stands in a ghostly auditorium just as our cast and crew left it in March, while Black Lives Matter protests rage across the world. Stories like this need to be told.

This is why theatre matters, even more so in times like these. The arts have a crucial role to play, both in terms of society's recovery from a pandemic and also in addressing systemic inequality and racial injustice within that society. The two are interlinked. We want Kiln Theatre to be a place for people to come

together again, to grieve, to heal, to challenge what has happened in 2020. And challenge we must. The Office for National Statistics calculates that our Greater London Borough of Brent is the area worst affected by COVID-19 in the entire country. Recent Trust for London statistics show that 69% of Brent's residents are Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic (BAME) and we all know how these communities have been disproportionately affected by the virus. As our Artistic Director Indhu Rubasingham explains, COVID-19 is exacerbating the existing fault lines within our society.

Events of 2020 make us more determined in our mission than ever before. We will not retreat, programming less risky productions for the sake of selling more tickets, nor will we choose more conservative, 'safer' plays purely to entice people back into our auditorium. We will continue to produce new work that challenges and provokes, by writers and directors with diverse voices and lived experiences.

There is hope for the UK arts and culture sector. For some, it is top down, in the form of the £1.57bn government bailout. Given just how much it will take to ensure that our large, national institutions stay afloat, it's hard to imagine smaller organisations like ours receiving any significant portion of these funds. Instead, my hope is bottom up, in the form of grassroots support. It's in the members of our local community sending £10 as they wait patiently for our doors to reopen. It's in our loyal audience members choosing to give their ticket refund back to us as a donation and eagerly booking new tickets when we go back on sale. It's in the groundswell of people believing in the power of the arts to process what is happening in today's world and to push for a fairer, more equal society. ■



In an area where 84% of young people have English as their second language, Kiln has a cross-cultural vision

The Water House Project

The Water House Project began in 2015 when I left Michelin starred Galvin La Chapelle with the aim of making fine dining more accessible. It started as a 14 seat supper club from my Bethnal Green home. On Friday and Saturday evenings - in between gruelling 16 hour shifts - I'd welcome guests into my home for a more informal experience.

I made an agreement with Jeff Galvin, one half of the Galvin Brothers, to work Monday to Thursday clocking up around 60 hours each week, and on Friday and Saturday evenings I'd prepare a 6 course tasting menu from home. Word soon got around and we had a 6 week long waiting list. After 6 months of juggling the two, maintaining both

restaurant work and the supper club was too much for me, so I decided to focus solely on supper clubs.

A year later I assembled a team of 5 and we moved into a tile and kitchen design studio by the towpath canal in Hackney, East London. We shared the space - a stunning Victorian warehouse - with design studio Bert and May who would occupy it during the day. My team would transform it into a restaurant at night, hosting an 8 course tasting menu complete with wine pairing.

The model was the same in the new premises as the previous supper club format. Our 36 guests would arrive at 7pm, settle into the space and mingle with others over an aperitif and canapés. I would chink a glass, introduce myself and the team and ask people to take a seat on one of the three long tables. As the evenings got underway I would speak about each course, explaining the preparation method and where I sourced the ingredients. Our sommelier Renato would likewise introduce his wines. Our menu changed each month, complete with new wines. We sold out every night for the next 18 months.

This year, with nervous excitement, I opened The Water House Project's first permanent premises on Mare Street in Hackney. Having begun work on the space in October, we moved in at the start of January. The Mare Street premises were now equipped with a stunning kitchen from our collaborators Hi-Spec design and two beautiful communal tables. Strangers would sit across from each other and share a meal; 9 courses with 6 glasses of carefully paired wines. In this intimate environment, they would talk, shake hands and sometimes even more (we've had marriages stem from our evenings!) Then all of a sudden coronavirus struck, bookings stopped and we closed.

Unsure of a way forward, I stayed in London contemplating a fine dining delivery service. It sounded great, but the practicalities of delivering 9 delicate courses with wine and canapés were complicated.

In the end, I headed to my parents' home in Northumberland where my partner Trish had already been isolating for several weeks. It's the longest break I've had since I started working in restaurants at the age of 21 - I'm now 30. A lot like the army, restaurants are made up of brigades with a strict hierarchy (which my school reports suggest I never found easy) but they do provide structure. Long days, little sleep, but importantly a daily routine. This daily routine taught me a lot, but people need time and space to think as well as develop. After 3 years of pushing my own business and getting it so far, time and space is what I needed to take stock.

Throughout lockdown I developed new recipes as well as filming existing ones for viewing consumption on Instagram. Then I began to wonder if my idea at the beginning of lockdown was such a bad one: to deliver tasting menu kits to London homes.

I returned to London with Trish in May and set about developing The Water House Project 'At Home'. We've partnered with an ethical courier service, Pedal Me, and we've striven to use compostable containers to transport courses 1 to 6, all labelled with corresponding wines that we decant and bottle up on the day to be sent out across London. The response to our 'At Home' menu has been overwhelming. It was an instant success.

The further easing of restrictions provides added pressures for businesses like mine. Whilst coming to terms with lockdown was difficult, at least the rules were clear, and we all knew where we stood. Restaurants have now begun to re-open but, for us, this could prove a greater challenge than lockdown. The Water House Project began out of a desire to make fine dining less stuffy and to promote communication between strangers. Our intimate home once hosted 32 people. However with the 1 metre plus rule, we estimate we would have to halve this number.

The UK restaurant average profit margin is between 3-5%, therefore operating at half capacity isn't usually a viable option. For now we will continue to adapt, as all businesses must, to the changing landscape. I envisage that we will open for smaller gatherings, showcasing what we love to do with our menus changing monthly while continuing with our Water House Project At Home delivery service.

Coronavirus has laid bare and exposed the frailties of our industry. If the old ways aren't fit for purpose, then change is required. Staff are all too often overworked and underpaid, and contracts conceal the realities of their work. Chefs and waiting staff are often paid for shifts as opposed to hours. This means that whilst someone may be contracted to work for 48 hours a week, in reality this could be as many as 70-80 hours. Once an hourly rate is calculated, the take home pay can be alarmingly far below minimum wage.

The Job Retention or Furlough Scheme has further highlighted the failure of our broken system. Many restaurants pay a proportion of staff wages using the money generated by that 'discretionary' 12.5% gratuity that's often added to your bill. The result of this has meant that many in our industry have received up to 80% of only a portion of their wages. With London rents often around 40-50% of salary, this leaves little to live off.

My own staff have fortunately not been affected in this way; we use tips as an added bonus and not as a means of making up basic pay.

Coronavirus has presented opportunities for some. Despite the obvious difficulties, I am in some ways grateful for the challenges this experience has given me. Without it, my goals would have been the same, to grow as a restaurant and hope to receive recognition for the work we do. But coronavirus has forced us to rethink, to adapt to a changing world, and importantly to do things differently. The restaurant industry in this country needed a shake up and perhaps coronavirus will be the catalyst for that change. ■

Gabriel Waterhouse (StA 08)

“Coronavirus has laid bare and exposed the frailties of our industry. If the old ways aren't fit for purpose, then change is required.”



Cypher 16

British rockers Cypher16 have been described as “one of metal’s truly pioneering bands” by the music press. Simon Redfern (Sc 75) hears about their progress from founder Jack Doolan (C 07) and fellow guitarist Will Cass (Sc 07).

There can’t be many rock bands who found themselves well prepared when lockdown hit the music world due to Covid-19, but Cypher16 – formed by OOs Jack Doolan (C 07) and Will Cass (Sc 07) in 2007 – were one of the fortunate few.

‘The band found itself in a good place at the beginning of the pandemic, because we had lots of new music that was finished in December 2019, which

we will be gradually releasing throughout 2020,’ Jack explained. These tracks, which were mastered at London’s famous Abbey Road studios, will form Cypher16’s second full-length album, *It’s A Long Way Back (From This Road)*.

The first – entitled *The Great Surveyor* – received excellent reviews from the music press when it was released in 2015. Produced by Romesh Dodangoda



▲ In 2017 Cypher16 became the first rock band to shoot a video at the National History Museum.

– who has worked with the likes of Motörhead – it was described by *Metal Hammer Magazine* as ‘a crushing joy from one of metal’s truly pioneering bands’ and received 10/10 from *Powerplay Magazine*.

Jack and Will travelled a long road to reach that stage. ‘The idea for Cypher16 was formed when I was around 15,’ Jack recalled. ‘I was still at school.’ His interest in rock music was sparked in 2000, when he received a CD Walkman and Iron Maiden’s *Brave New World* album. He remembered: ‘I would stand up in the choir stalls in front of about 300 people in church, sing the hymn and then sit down and plug into Iron Maiden. It was a revelation and everything changed from that day onwards.’

As for Will, his interest came via his parents, who listened to a lot of rock and roll, country and blues. ‘My Dad played guitar and I think there was always an inclination towards any music that was guitar-driven,’ he recalled. ‘I discovered rockier bands while at Oundle. Jack and I found we shared an interest in the heavier styles of music that were outside the day-to-day listening of the time.’

They both enjoyed ROCSOC and praised the Music Department for being highly supportive. ‘Jack, myself and one of our peers, Julian Shiu (Sc 07), were all enthusiastic about electric guitar,’ said Will. ‘The Music Department catered for our interest and brought in rock school guitar grades. That acknowledgement was very validating and stepped away from the more traditional routes of musical education.’

After Oundle, Jack and Will attended The Institute of Contemporary Music Performance (ICMP). Jack recruited musicians he had played with in cover bands at the time to help record and play Cypher16’s earliest shows. ‘I had no experience about being in a band, or about the music industry, so it was all trial and error,’ he told the ICMP website. Then, in 2009 and still in their teens, the band was invited to play at Locofest in Florida, around which they constructed their first tour of America. Later that year, Cypher16 became one of the first British metal

bands to tour in India and they have been such a success there that they have toured the country five times.

Altogether, they have now performed in 17 countries, 10 in ‘The March Of Nations’ run in 2014, including China, which they have toured twice, and performed at numerous festivals around the globe. ‘Every tour we did is memorable for different reasons,’ Jack commented. ‘Touring in countries like Norway just works. It’s a pleasure all the time to be there. Touring in the UK and US is not always as much fun, because things just don’t work as well. However, the fans everywhere are great and that’s why we do it. We had some issues with the police in China in Xinjiang province. It was a pretty dangerous part of the world and we probably shouldn’t have been there, but it all worked out eventually. It’s funny what a bribe and a bit of attitude will do for you! In America, our tour buses kept breaking down. We ended up doing 1,000-mile-plus drives almost every night and when there are 13 of you living on a bus, it takes a toll on your mental health.’

Will agreed with Jack on the last point. ‘Going on the road is tough, socially, physically, mentally, logistically,’ he said. ‘You adapt to the situation and your energy comes from your purpose. Once the intrepid instincts are awakened and the creative juices start flowing, the biggest challenge is to overcome the moments when that reality is not present.’

After touring the US and Canada with Swedish heavy-metal band Amaranthe in 2017, Cypher16 made rock history when they shot their video for *Open The Dark Door* at London’s Natural History Museum, the only band to be allowed to make such a video. A year later, Cypher16 played their biggest headline show to date, at London’s Islington Academy. There won’t be any tours in 2020, of course, but Jack pointed out: ‘We’re taking this time to prepare for a strong 2021. There is some interest coming out of Brazil at the moment, so it’s a shame things are getting serious over there right now. I’d like to try and get us there next year.’ ■

Keeping Music Alive

Iain Farrington (C 95) talks to Megan Smedley about his aims as a musician and the need to make classical music accessible to all.

Iain Farrington comes from Hitchin, with its strong musical tradition. Although not from a family of professional musicians, his father is 'an avid music enthusiast and an excellent choral singer.' They had an old upright piano that had belonged to his grandparents, which he and his two elder brothers played - generally the latest pop hits and TV tunes. All the children went to local state schools and sang in St Mary's Church choir, where Iain also began to play the organ. On an Oundle organ course, he showed such promise that he ended up with a music scholarship - after a 'bewildering and gruelling weekend' of entrance interviews. Coming to Oundle was a major upheaval, he remembers, and although he realised that the musical opportunities were terrific and the facilities outstanding, boarding was definitely 'not my thing.' The cultural differences seemed to him enormous. However, Iain believes that his time at Oundle shaped his awareness of why classical music should be made more accessible.

Before becoming a freelance musician, he read music at Cambridge University and was organ scholar at St John's College. Later, as Organ Scholar at St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, he played for many royal events. He also spent two years studying piano at the Royal Academy of Music.

About half of his work today involves performing on the piano or the organ - solo recitals, accompanying singers, choirs or instrumentalists and playing in small ensembles or with big orchestras: 'I've been lucky to perform all over the world in some amazing venues with some brilliant musicians. The other

half of my work involves composing and arranging, using a wide range of styles. I've composed pieces for large symphony orchestra right down to solo piano. I like to use a lot of jazz styles: swing, funk, blues and others, mixed with classical structures and colourful tonal harmonies.' Clear melodies and strong rhythms play a big part in his music, too, reflecting life experiences and emotions. As an arranger, he continues to work with many types of music: traditional African songs, Berlin cabaret, folk, klezmer, jazz, musicals, pop and opera.

As General Editor of the *Elgar Complete Edition*, which publishes definitive Elgar scores, he aims to increase performances and widen knowledge of Elgar's music around the world. As a lifelong Wolves fan, I was keen to ask if Elgar really was responsible for writing the first ever football chant. After all, there is evidence that Elgar cycled the 40 miles or so from his home in Malvern to watch matches. There's a plaque to him at The Molineux, and 'Nimrod' is regularly played at the ground. Sadly for me, Iain says not. *He Banged the Leather for Goal* is 'just a few bars based on a phrase from a match report sent by his friend Dora Penny.'

Highlights of Iain's career are the orchestral pieces he writes for the BBC Proms. *Wing It* (2012) is a jazz guide to the orchestra, and *Gershwinicity* (2018) was composed for five former BBC Young Musician winners. This year, *Beethoveniana* - inspired by Beethoven's nine symphonies - was commissioned to celebrate the opening of the virtual *First Night of the Proms* played by a BBC Virtual Orchestra made up of over 300 musicians with performers recorded

▼ Iain and Rowan Atkinson at the 2012 London Olympics opening ceremony





▲ The world premiere of Iain Farrington's *Beethoveniana*, with the BBC's Grand Virtual Orchestra, in a virtual concert hall recording for the First Night of the Proms 2020

and filmed separately. Stunning editing has created a startling performance along with a very beautiful film of two dancers in their own lockdown bubble. Iain describes this work as 'putting Beethoven's work in a musical washing machine to see which colours run.' Designed to celebrate Beethoven's 250th anniversary, as well as reflecting the turmoil and sadness of today's pandemic, 'it was challenging but enjoyable, and I'm very proud of the resulting piece.'

His organ arrangement of Elgar's *Pomp and Circumstance March No.5* was performed at the 2011 Royal Wedding in Westminster Abbey. At the London 2012 Olympics Opening Ceremony, his playing the piano with Rowan Atkinson and the London Symphony Orchestra under Sir Simon Rattle, which was broadcast to a global audience of about a billion, was a perfect musical-comedy sketch.

'Over the last few years I've also had fun composing the *Scary Fairy* orchestral fairytale series, as well as the score for the *Horrible Histories Movie* - a real thrill.' Another example of his versatility is the music for *Peppa Pig: My First Concert*, which has toured all the major concert halls in the UK. With audiences mostly under five years old, he enjoyed the opportunity to make music accessible to children. Other highlights include a concert of orchestral folk song arrangements with the

singer Sam Lee, playing jazz songs with Jacqui Dankworth, recording Elgar's 2nd Symphony on the piano, accompanying Bryn Terfel and Willard White, and playing on one of the latest *Star Wars* soundtracks.

'One of my goals is to bring live music to as wide an audience as possible, while keeping musical integrity and quality.' Iain's concert programmes often include his pop and jazz arrangements alongside the traditional classical repertoire, so there's a wide stylistic breadth. His many arrangements of large-scale pieces reduced to chamber orchestra size allow them to be performed on an affordable smaller scale in smaller venues all over the world. 'This enables us to bring orchestral music out of the big cities and into town halls, village churches and outdoor spaces,' he says. 'Younger players and conductors often have their first chance to perform.'

Purely by accident, these arrangements are now used in socially-distanced concerts, where numbers of people able to perform and attend are severely limited. 'This is an enormously challenging time for the cultural sector and anyone involved in live performance, of course. Many of us are doing our best to keep music alive. It's proving very hard, but we're determined to survive.' ■

Read more about Iain here:
www.iainfarrington.com
www.ariaeditions.org

Conducting During Covid

Gabriella Teychenné (N 10) considers the philosophy of conducting, and her concern about the classical music industry

The question of 'what' a conductor is, is harder to answer than 'why', even though the 'why' needs more consideration, as it deals with the delicate question of power.

The profession stems from wanting to share the gift and joy of music - and to create art - with other people. Conductors begin as skilled musicians of some kind on some instrument. Pianists usually have experience in accompanying; orchestral players have worked with others from an early age, from summer courses to school orchestras and ensembles. This was certainly the case for me. Trained as a violinist from the age of four, I was fortunate to play in just about any musical setting possible - solo, chamber and orchestral - when I was growing up and at university.

Going to Oundle rather than a specialised music school wasn't a traditional career path. I wanted the sort of well-rounded education which Oundle offered. I was able to continue to study music and while it was mainly considered to be an 'extra-curricular' activity, I had the space to flourish. Then, instead of music conservatoire, I studied Human, Social and Political Science at Cambridge University. Only after that did I decide to pursue music as a career - at the Royal College of Music (RCM), followed by St Petersburg Conservatoire.

Conducting, as a vocation, occurred to me during my time at the RCM partly through curiosity and partly through necessity. I'd always been interested in all instruments, not one; in the twenty lines of a full score, not just one of them. I was in love with orchestral colours and

sounds, and I discovered a natural affinity for the conductor's gestures and movements. Moving out of the violinist's seat, the podium felt like a natural environment, where I was both active and passive, leader and listener. I've come the 'long-way round' - but perhaps my broad background gave me a way to incorporate all the aspects of life that interest me into a form of expression that I loved.

Musical intuition and a trained ear are perhaps the most





▲ Lockenhaus, Austria, August 2020. With Art House Opera doing Mozart's (socially distanced) *Così fan Tutte*

fundamental aspect of the job - the ability to listen, analyse and absorb the sound around you. Physical motor skills, strength and flexibility are necessary in how clearly and efficiently you can express your ideas through gesture and command in using your entire body to provide a musical incentive.

But there is also a complex set of skills beyond this that are necessary to succeed and survive.

An understanding of poetry, metre and dramatic narrative are crucial in opera and concert. History provides a context for musical works, in terms of political setting and the cultural and artistic background of any period.

Understanding German, Italian, French and Russian is essential for opera - as is an appreciation of linguistics and phonetics. Philosophy is integral to any understanding of culture, while mathematics allows an analysis of the logic at the base of any musical work. Understanding physical acoustics is necessary in order to be able to adjust the balance of instruments in a concert hall.

Leadership and psychology are also crucial. There is an equilibrium between being sensitive when

managing a group of musicians, as well as being firm and demanding. Mental exhaustion and physical injury are commonplace, and of course time management is necessary, rehearsal time being limited and intense.

As a young conductor, it is daunting to carry what can feel like an insurmountable list of expectations. But this is also the joy of the profession, and the reason why it gives me and my colleagues so much inspiration - because at its core, it's a constant and never-ending path of discovery. Leadership is essential, but the tropes of ego and power are less important than the ability to create joy and musical memories.

This is a strange time to be discussing conducting, as Covid-19 has created chaos within the classical music industry, jeopardising the livelihood and career prospects of hundreds of UK musicians. But without orchestras, opera houses and live music, the world would be diminished, losing not only an irreplaceable form of art, intellect and expression, but also its only universal language. And this is the language that, as a conductor, I am privileged to speak on a daily basis. ■

“Without orchestras, opera houses and live music, the world would be diminished.”

New Fruits and Old Roots

The San Francisco International Wine Competition is one of the largest and most influential contests of its kind. In November 2019, over 3,150 wines from around the globe were blind-tasted by arguably the most prestigious sommeliers and wine experts ever assembled for this type of competition. Forty-nine judges spent three days searching for the top wines in each category. While the French label 'Collet' classically took the top spot in the Champagne category, a new champion was crowned "Best in Class" for Cabernet Sauvignon.

The winner, a 2016 vintage aptly named "Snake Oil", was grown, harvested, crafted, barrelled and bottled at the Somerston Estate, a boutique, family-owned vineyard in Napa Valley, California.

The Somerston Estate flagship label, Priest Ranch Wines, was founded in 2007 by **Allan Chapman** (St. A 69) and local winemaker Craig Becker. Their goal is to create one of the top estates for Cabernet Sauvignon in the world by combining agricultural excellence with high quality craftsmanship to reflect the diversity and distinctive character of the land itself. The fruits of their labour have so far been received with high praise from US collectors and critics, including several 95+ scores from Decanter magazine for the 2018 Priest Ranch Cabernet Sauvignon and

Robert Parker's Wine Advocate for the 2013 and 2014 Somerston Estate label vintages.

Allan and his daughter, **Kristina Chapman** (W 08) are looking to challenge the French cultural imperialism in the European market with Priest Ranch Wines UK, launching their first sales through the newly established OO online network. OOs will have the unique opportunity to place orders for the first UK shipment of the Californian wines, arriving in September 2020 with specific Oundle discounts for leavers and families as well as free membership to the California Connoisseur Wine Club, offering access to limited edition library wines and single-block vintages.

The History of Oundle and Somerston

The Chapmans are a third generation Oundle family, beginning with **Ralph Chapman** (S 28). Ralph was a keen member of the Oundle cricket and shooting teams and was best known for his avid interests in racing cars, home-made radios, and stunt planes.

After leaving Oundle, Ralph joined the family business, Somerston Shipping Company. The company originally operated clipper ships out of Newcastle-upon-Tyne but later modernised to steam ships by the late 1920s. During the 1930s and 40s, Ralph was contracted by the British

An Old Oundelian family looking for Top Marks (in your wine cellar)

► From top to bottom:
Three generations of OO winemakers:
Ralph Chapman (S 28)
Allan Chapman (St A 69)
Kristina Chapman (W 08)



athletics teams. He moved to the US in 1977, several years after his degree at Cambridge University, and pioneered several successful residential and commercial real estate developments in Northern California. In 2004, he founded the Somerston Estate and later established the Somerston Wine Company and Priest Ranch Winery.

Allan's favourite is the Priest Ranch flagship red blend 2014 'Coachgun'. Like him, the wine can often be found with a lightly seared ribeye steak and Dijon mushroom sauce.

Kristina Chapman lives and works in the Kentish countryside as an emergency equine veterinarian and serves as Director for Priest Ranch Wines UK. Despite growing up in California, Kristina was so excited by the prospect of attending Oundle that she sent an enquiry to the school about attending sixth form without the knowledge of her parents. She was one of the first to captain the Oundle women's 1st XV rugby team and helped introduce the annual charity rugby match (now known as the Thommy Purbrook Charity Rugby Match).

Kristina is a traditionalist and loyally recommends the 2018 Priest Ranch Cabernet Sauvignon, but the rest of the family know she secretly prefers a glass of Priest Ranch Sparkling Brut Rosé on a 'warm' British summer day.

John (Sc 11) and Stephen (F 14) Chapman both returned to the US after Oundle. John studied engineering at Purdue University and works as a civil engineer near San Francisco. Stephen graduated from the University of Notre Dame and lives in Chicago, Illinois, where he works in property valuation finance.

John heartily recommends the upcoming 2018 vintage of Priest Ranch 'Snake Oil', while his brother Stephen, a true classicist at heart, is partial to a glass of 2010 Priest Ranch Port particularly when combined with a large selection of cheeses.

The family hopes to bring the best that Napa Valley has to offer to your doorstep. Please visit us at www.priestranchwines.co.uk or on the OO network for more details. ■



Ministry of War Transport to manage a subset of their cargo fleet, carrying vital supplies for the war effort and doing his best to avoid deadly German U-boats.

Ralph enjoyed a good bottle of French Savagnin blanc, but the family will forgive him and believes if he were here today, true to his daring nature, he would be partial to the Somerston XCVI Celestial block library vintage.

The family diversified out of shipping into real estate investment by 1975 under Allan's guidance. Like his father, Allan was an avid sportsman during his time at Oundle, playing rugby, squash and fives as well as participating in the shooting and



Co-education

Oundle has had to postpone its celebration of co-education. We look forward to a lengthier feature in next year's edition

“Oundle prides itself on being a forward-looking, open minded School, a School which takes note of the nature of life outside its walls and not only responds to it but anticipates its further development so that the School provides for its pupils sound and good preparation for later life.

David McMurray,
Headmaster, 1988

These were some of the words written by David McMurray and read by all members of the teaching staff on Friday, 13 May 1988 in a paper that announced Oundle's future lay in full co-education. The Governors had decided to build two new boarding houses to accommodate girls from the age of thirteen. They were to open in September 1990.

Some of the staff had already taught girls, as Laxton School had girls in the Sixth Form in 1986 and was to welcome the first entry of girls aged eleven and twelve in 1989.





▲ Oundle's first female rowing squad

“Co-education is therefore a wise move and absolutely in keeping with Oundle's reputation - earned in Sanderson's day and jealously maintained - for providing an education which is fully relevant to the world outside its walls.

David McMurray,
Headmaster, 1988

David McMurray went on to say that there would be many advantages, one of the most important being the undoubted raising of academic standards. He accepted that there would be challenges; however he saw Oundle as the pioneer of a first-class, fully co-educational academic boarding school.

Alan Rayden, Second Master at the time, has some memories about this major change. He is keen to point out that these are personal reminiscences:

‘After the announcement, it was then that the serious work began with a series of committees set up with many different staff involved. I chaired a Co-education committee and was joined by eight other staff. It was a fascinating time. There were visits to other schools, visiting speakers, staff training days and a recruitment drive. All were critical to the success of the project.

The choice of the girls' uniform was inspirational; it really did point to the future. The fact that it has changed little seems to confirm this. There was of course concern about the potential problems with boy /

girl relationships, and a long time was spent on working out the social protocols. Some hilarious rules were discussed - for example, that study doors must be left open at all times, or the famous (but never promulgated) - four feet on the floor at all times rule! One other crucial problem that the Co-Education committee discovered was the severe lack of WCs around the School for the current pupils not to mention the future intake. Apparently, there were some complex negotiations, but eventually things were improved for everyone.

I must pay tribute to Norman and Elizabeth Brittain (Housemaster and Matron of Kirkeby) and Denise Davidson (Housemistress of Wyatt) and her husband Neil. They were wise, imaginative and inspirational ‘house parents’ who generated disciplined, stylish but very different communities. Viv Moore was appointed to be in-charge of girls' games and this was critical to the success of the whole project. She brought enthusiasm, skill and dedication to produce a vibrant girls' games programme suitable for all. ▶



◀ CO-ED 30TH

Norman Brittain, Kirkeby Hsm, remembers that it all began in the best possible way. At that time when many similar schools were forced to turn to co-education as a means of filling their books, Oundle was in a position to make a choice based wholly on what was believed to be best for the future of the school.

This enabled us to spend more than two years planning for the move... and didn't we just! In addition to Open Days and Training Days, six committees were set up, each with a clear brief to provide practical advice to be translated into action, covering everything from Curriculum to Buildings to Uniform. Then, there were our visits to learn from schools that had already made the move: from Strathallan to Bryanston, from Clifton to Gresham's we quartered the country!

Some might say that one of the most important outcomes of these visits was the choice of girls' uniform: that is, that it should be something with a bit more style than the standard-issue blazer and pleated kilt. Well, culottes were in fashion and culottes it was, therefore. In their original form, they were cut to mid-calf but as time went by the pupils themselves drove the fashion that brought them down to their present striking length.

We were most conscious that, even after co-education had been up and running for some years, girls would

form a small minority within the school. We took great care, therefore, to do our best to ensure that our chosen pupils were not only up to the academic mark but also that they had the confidence and the spirit to thrive. We interviewed every applicant carefully.

Girls soon began to get fully involved with and to make a big impact on School activities, not only in the Stahl and music and sports but also in CCF (thirty of them signed up from the start for the one-term express squad introduction) and in what was then still 'Workshops'.

When it came to gauging how the boys would react, we were not wrong to remind ourselves that Oundle is a school which, far from being hidebound by rigid tradition, still thrives on Sanderson's belief in open-mindedness. Of course, there were bound to be some who reacted with suspicion and unease - but the vast majority were friendly, welcoming and natural in their response. We found ourselves reflecting upon how, in our concern to get everything spot-on at the planning stage, we had underestimated the cheerful common sense of most boys and girls and their natural tendency to want to mix in an easy and companionable fashion. As one young one put it in response to an enquiry about how she was getting on with the boys, "Oh fine, sir, but I'm not interested in them, you know, as boys".

What a pleasure it was to have been involved with it all. ■

▲ Boys from Dryden House in a good-natured protest against a takeover by women



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Let's Get Quizzical

I'm sure that many of you will have sat in front of the TV screen shouting the answers at the contestants taking part in various quiz programmes and said to yourself 'I could do better than that – I ought to apply'. I was one of those people too. I had watched *Mastermind* since its inception in the early 1970s when it was originally hosted by Magnus Magnusson and again in the 2000s when John Humphreys took over.

In 2018 I finally decided that the time had come to put my money where my mouth was and I applied to take part. After a general interview and a couple of general knowledge rounds on the telephone I was chosen as a standby contestant. I went up to Media City in Salford for a day to sit in the green room and graze on the refreshments waiting to hear if I would be needed for any of the five programmes that were being recorded that day. When all the contestants turned I wasn't sure whether to be relieved or disappointed but I did get to sit in the audience to watch the last programme being recorded and this prompted me to reapply the following year.

This time I got through as a fully-fledged contestant and settled down to research my chosen specialist subject, the composer Johannes Brahms. The company that produced *Mastermind* had changed between 2018 and 2019 and recordings were now taking place in Belfast, so in July 2019 I was flown over and put up in a nice hotel just round the corner from the studio. The hotel was full of *Mastermind* contestants quite a number of whom were obviously on the television quiz circuit and had taken part in other programmes such as *Only Connect*, *University Challenge*, *Fifteen to One* and others. It was quite intimidating.

My programme was recorded

in the afternoon and I gathered in the waiting room with eleven other participants, three of whom were my opponents and the rest of whom were in different episodes. The three others on my 'team'; Jethro, John and Shelley, were delightful – all were younger than me but we got on very well and we had a good chat and a laugh between ourselves before going down to the studio.

Once in the studio it was down to business; the audience was already seated and John Humphreys came in shortly after us. He chatted with audience members and was very kind and encouraging. I was first up but by this time I wasn't particularly nervous. After the first couple of questions I relaxed and was pleased that it was going well. I got a couple of questions wrong – one of which I was cross about because I knew the answer but my mouth and my brain had a disconnect. After the specialist round I was lying second with 10 points and that was how the order remained. I didn't do as well as I had hoped in the general knowledge round. I found that if the answer didn't come into my head straight away there was no time to cast around for the correct one. Jethro came first by one point: he scored 19 and I scored 18, and he went on to the semi-final and ultimately, the final.

There were a few re-takes for continuity issues and then we were free to go. The relief that it was all over was palpable. We wished good luck to the next group going in after us and then we went back to the hotel and had what we felt was a well-deserved drink!

I'm glad that I've done it – I don't have to wonder any more how I would get on. Having said that, I'm not going to make a career of it. Once was enough!

Besides *Mastermind*, there are plenty of other quizzes to test one's mettle and an appeal for Old

OO Club Secretary Jane Fenton, seen below in the famous black chair, writes about OO experiences in Quiz Shows



Oundelians who had taken part in similar programmes threw up a variety of shows and experiences. One was *The Chase* which **James Bolland** (S 13) took part in last year.

James writes: 'I've always been a fan of quiz shows, and one day when watching *The Chase* my flatmate said I should give it a shot and see if I got on - what's the worst that could happen? So I applied. I was invited to the audition, with six others in my slot, in a hotel in Birmingham. The audition involved essentially a 'mini' Chase, where we played each round, more to test how we engaged rather than our knowledge I'm sure. Their main test, I think, was where we each gave a two minute introduction of ourselves while being filmed, including our interests/hobbies and what we'd do with the money if we won. Tip: having a diverse set of interests helps! In the end, I made it through with one other person.

On the day, there were about two hours of preparation - going through the show format step by step, including how best to interact with Bradley and to talk through our thought process for each answer; then picking out what we were going to wear (we were asked to bring 5 different options!); then going through to make-up; all while being shepherded around carefully so that we wouldn't bump into any of the Chasers. So in those two hours, there were various moments of calm, excitement, as well as nervousness and sweaty palms! When we were brought into the studio I was feeling pretty relaxed actually. It was bigger and airier than I'd thought, the lights weren't as bright and music

not as loud as I had expected from watching TV, so it wasn't as daunting as I'd feared. We were introduced to Bradley, who was professional but not quite as warm as I'd expected - I guess a consequence of having to film three episodes a day.

My performance in the actual show was good and I couldn't have hoped for too much better. I got six right in the cashbuilder - the last question I really should've got but was conscious I was running out of time. The Chaser I faced was Jenny the Vixen, who was funny and not too intimidating compared to some of the others. I went for the middle option and was breezing through, getting four in a row correct. In my head I was already assuming I would make it to the Final Chase - three chances to get through. But sadly I was stumped by all three questions. My biggest regret in life is now never having learned French in School, otherwise I would've known that cheveux means hair! All in all a tremendous experience, though, and a lot of fun'.

Adrian Colledge (Lx 72) has done a tour of television quiz shows as a contestant, including *Today's the Day* with Martyn Lewis in 1996. Adrian reports that his father, who was his co-contestant, whispered to him as they went into the studio, "You do know you're on your own here, don't you?" Colledge Senior never said a word during the programme and, despite Adrian's best efforts, they lost.

Adrian was also a contender on *Who Wants To Be A Millionaire* in 2003. Unfortunately he didn't get past the Fastest Finger First stage. Apparently the secret to getting through that stage is to decide which order you are going to press the ABCD buttons beforehand and then if you pick the right order you will get through.

In the same year, Adrian took part in the first series of *Eggheads* and his team was playing for £13,000 against an unbeaten *Eggheads* team. He played CJ in his head-to-head and won on a tie-break. Three of them got through to the final and it went to the third tie-break, when they had a sport question, which is the subject they

▼ Adrian Colledge (Lx 72), left, with his father and host Martyn Lewis on *Today's the Day*



◀ would have chosen if they could. Chris says, 'Unfortunately, it was on boxing: who knocked out Lennox Lewis in a 2001 upset? We couldn't think of Hasim Rahman and we lost (never forgotten that name since!). All the Eggheads were really nice, as was [the host] Dermot Murnaghan'.

I'm sure you won't be surprised to learn that Adrian has been running pub quizzes as a hobby for the past 30 years and continues to do so.

Sam Herring (L 17) appeared on *Blockbusters* in January 2019. The show was very popular in the 1980s and 90s and was revived by the TV channel Comedy Central, with Dara O'Briain as host. Against his better judgement, Sam decided to give it a go. Despite a promising start, he lost on the tiebreak question about a Drake album and missed his chance to play the "Gold Run". He says it was a fun day out, but he somehow doubts the St Andrews' University Challenge team will be calling him up anytime soon.

Some people would argue that *The Krypton Factor* was the ultimate show for participants from the general public. This show ran from 1977 to 1995 and involved tough physical and mental challenges as well as a general knowledge round. **Chris Topham** (G 74) took part in 1983 when he was an RAF Flying Instructor – his colleagues sent an application in for him! Chris was sent a long questionnaire to complete - he says his mum did half of it – and he was invited for an interview in Leeds, after which he was accepted as a contestant.

On the day itself he was up against others who were all very fit and training for marathons. He got off to a bad start in the first round but made up ground after that. Despite this he didn't win his heat but he eventually made it through to the semi-final by becoming the highest scoring runner-up. He then won the semi-final, making it through to the series final.

Chris came into his own during the Grand Final and won by one point becoming the 1983 series champion. He says that after he won, his popularity rose and he received a mountain of fan mail with people

asking for signed photographs. He was also invited to lunch by his bank manager!

Finally, I heard from **Hugo Butterworth** (D 91) who took part, while at School, in a series entitled Paperchase.

Paperchase tested sixth-formers from the East of England on their local, as well as general, knowledge.

Oundle School was invited to send a team to the Anglia TV Studios in Norwich to participate.

Hugo writes: 'There was a highly competitive selection process organised by the Geography Department which involved at least four pupils. We were asked a series of geographical-based questions and the field was whittled down to three participants; me, **Richard Kunzer** (G 90) and **Rosie Sisson** (K 91) who was the sub.

We all set off to Norwich (the Geography teachers had abandoned us at this stage) with a small group of supporters.

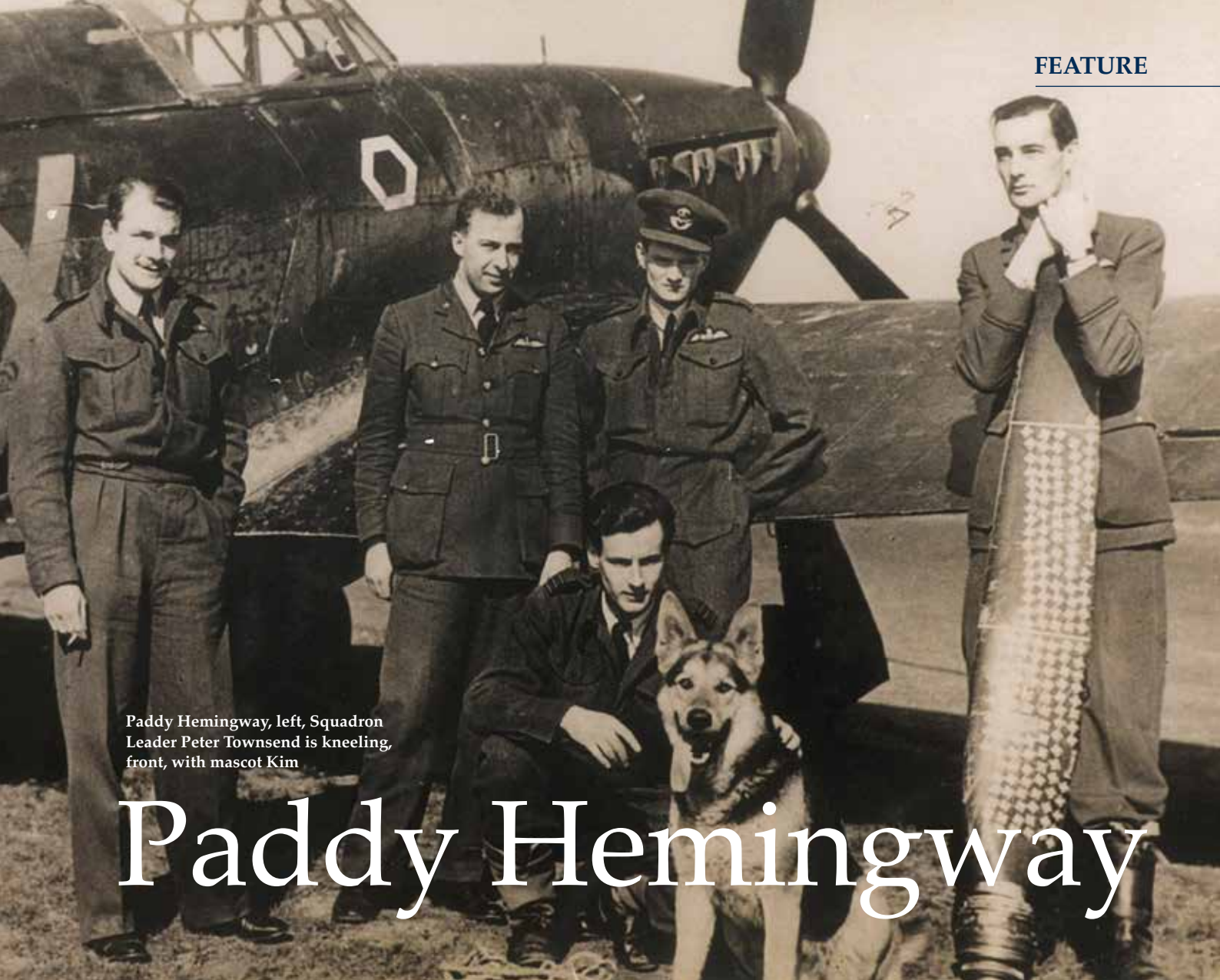
We were asked what our hobbies were. I recall that Richard was restoring a Land Rover to take him on a race through the Sahara (or something similar). I had nothing exciting like that to wow the audience with so I falsely claimed to be a collector of World War II respirators. There were frequent cheesy references to this hobby throughout the show when things got tense.

The quiz involved teams from schools across the Anglia region and the idea was you started from your home town (Oundle) and had to reach your opponents' home town by answering questions on the places that you passed through. If you knew the answer to a question then you pressed your buzzer which was on the end of a pogo stick. All very Alan Partridge.

We started off well but eventually lost to a school from Harlow who knew far more about East Anglia than either Richard or me'.

There are probably many other OOs who have taken part in TV shows but my thanks go to those who volunteered their experiences. If we've inspired you to give it a go let me know – it really is a lot of fun! ■

I had nothing exciting to wow the audience with, so I falsely claimed to be a collector of WWII respirators.



Paddy Hemingway, left, Squadron Leader Peter Townsend is kneeling, front, with mascot Kim

Paddy Hemingway

Brian Hemingway, (St A 70) writes about his father, Paddy - the last surviving Battle of Britain pilot

I recently asked my father why he chose Oundle to educate my brother and myself.

He said he was looking for a modern school that had a similar ethos to the RAF which valued the individual within a common culture that equipped students for a post war society. Above all, it was egalitarian, proud of its history but not bound by it. Like the RAF, it attracted a large and diverse group of people from across the UK and abroad. And, of course, given that I was of average intelligence, it would give me a solid start to life. He liked the idea of a school integrated within a small market town in a stunning environment and with a reputation for sports, particularly rugby and squash. He says he knew it was a great school, but when he first

visited, he had an immediate and strong empathy with it. He looked no further.

My father was born in Dublin, Ireland on 17 July 1919. He had a good education and was a keen sportsman. He was granted an RAF short service commission on 7 March 1939 and posted to 85 Squadron in Debden flying Hurricanes. He stayed with the 85 throughout the Battle of France and the Battle of Britain.

As war broke out, the squadron was sent (with 87 Squadron) to Rouen, France as part of No 60 Fighter Wing, providing air support to the BEF. During the war, my father destroyed or severely damaged seven enemy aircraft, the first a He111 at the start of the Battle of France on 10 May 1940. On 11 May he was shot down by flak and crash landed near Maastricht;

◀ it took him three days to return to the squadron, eating refugee stews along the way and walking on a wounded leg. Over the next two days, his logbook says he flew four sorties each day but he cannot remember them. On 17 May, Dickie Lee, Sammy Allard and he were sent to London to rest.

85 Squadron was the hardest hit squadron in France, losing 25 Hurricanes. Seven pilots were killed, five wounded and one taken prisoner in ten days. During June and July 1940, 85 Squadron was re-formed and brought back to full operational strength under Squadron Leader Peter Townsend, based at Debden.

On 18 August, known as the Hardest Day, Paddy Townsend's Hurricane V7249 was shot down over the channel twelve miles east of Clacton. He narrowly avoided

drowning before being rescued. A lucky escape. Just eight days later, on 26 August, twelve Hurricanes from 85 Squadron engaged 250 Dorniers head on. Again he was shot down in his Hurricane P3966, crashing in Pitsea Marshes and parachuting to safety unhurt. Two days later he was back on operational duties.

By early September, 85 Squadron was devastated again: just seven pilots out of eighteen remained. He recalls suffering from extreme exhaustion. The seven were withdrawn and became a "C" squadron training inexperienced pilots. In November 1940, 85 Squadron became night fighters, pioneering tactics and combat. Paddy mainly flew Havocs with some success, shooting down several He111s. On 11 April 1941 he was mentioned in Despatches and

▼ Paddy, second left, with fellow 85 squadron members





▲ Paddy Hemingway, aged 100, with a war-time photograph of himself

awarded the DFC on 1 July 1941.

From 1942 he spent time as CO of an Offensive radar station as a Squadron Leader. He got his wish in 1945 to return to operational duties, taking command of 43 Squadron flying Spitfires in Italy, 'helping the Germans with their retreat.'

On 23 April 1945, while strafing, he was hit by ground fire over Ravenna and bailed out. The brave Italian partisans hid him and disguised him in peasant clothing and, holding hands with a little girl, he was guided past

German lines to safety.

Paddy Hemingway stayed in the RAF after the war and retired in 1969 as a Group Captain. He currently lives in Wicklow and is very mindful that he was just one of those 3000 pilots and 300,000 RAF personnel who won the Battle of Britain and brought him through safely.

He feels privileged to have met all those amazing young men and pilots, so many of whom perished in the war. As he says, he is indeed a lucky Irishman. ■



Multisports Weekend 2020

With the Multisports trophy languishing in the Head's study and the 'scythe of Covid' hanging over the build-up, it was vital that the trophy be wrestled from the pupils and returned to The Stables where it rightly belongs. In sports journalism terms 'it could have gone either way' right up to the moment the OOs 'ran away with it' 7.5 to 3.5! It's nigh on impossible to single out any spectacular individual performances (apart from my own, of course) but let's just say it was a weekend of two halves and we won both of them.

School got off to a flyer, bagging rifle shooting (pupils not in the least fazed by experienced OOs and their arsenal of state-of-the-art weaponry), water polo (not for the faint hearted) and squash 2-4 (plucky OOs crushed by the weight of the unforgiving machine which is Oundle School

squash) . However, the OOs hit back, snaffling fives (always a pedigree scrap), the rowing ergo (go Kristina!) and clay shooting (nailing 123/200 of the blighters - that's clays not pupils). Cross country was off-site but some heroic OOs threw themselves into the fray and we agreed a draw.

Meanwhile, on the 2-Acre, the silky skills of the OO Vets put Peterborough Vets to the sword 45-17

Arthur Marment (D 77) , Multisports co-ordinator, leaves no sports cliché unturned.



despite not having Guy Simmonds' bro reffing! Ok, so this doesn't count in the overall score but to purists the skill level brought to mind the Welsh Wizards of the 70s. If Warren Gatland's got any Lion-sized holes to fill next year he'd do well to ignore age and focus on the sort of athleticism and skill which our lads had in spades. Additional full marks to the Team for focusing on the importance of rehydration chez The Ship where everyone (bar me and my son) enjoyed watching England v Wales in the Six Nations Rugby (alas I can't recall how that match panned out.)

Sunday dawned clear but breezy and a tide of slightly hungover maroon and dark blue swept the plucky pupils away as we recorded wins in netball (30-19 - a much tougher sport than blokes imagine); men's hockey (2-1 with a sort of Euro-hit-'em-on-the-break approach) and football (5-2). May have muddled men's hockey and football scores but let's not get fussy! Finally, stand-in skip the evergreen Sophie Walker (L 10) led the charge as a massive contingent of OO racketeers overwhelmed the pupils 12-4 to record the biggest winning margin in years. Next door, on the hallowed 2- (soon to be one-) Acre, yet another festival of honed athleticism was in evidence as the U-21 OOs played the O-21 OOs in a high-quality, fast-moving match. I can't remember the score but Sport was definitely the winner.

Big Up to those who 'double-sported', including George Marmont (B 12) (tennis and squash - wonder where he got his brilliance from?); Bella Ellis (tennis and netball - definitely got her skills from mum); Chris Piper (rugby and tennis) and

Alastair Irvine (clay and target shooting). If I've missed out anyone in this roll of honour, I will buy them a pint next year! Also, sincere kudos to the two oldest OO players: David McFetrich (B 56) who romped away with his match in the squash and looked younger than me, and Bev Boag (St A 60) in the Fives who skipped around the court like a young gazelle. The OO Club presented a bottle of quality Port to both of them for their application and inspiration.

Massive thanks to Jane Fenton (OO Sec) and Al Gordon (OO sports Czar) for support; el presidente Charles Miller for being there throughout; the OO sports secretaries; and the long-suffering OO partners, parents and friends who turned up to cheer. Why pay for Sky? Ditto the OO Club for divvying up for the grub & grog at The Ship (plus shout out to Robert and his team for hosting us). Not to mention all the School sports staff, particularly Alistair Sherwin and Nick Beasant, plus the Oundle rugby coach who reffed the Vets game (sorry - forgotten his name - hey I'm over 60 for heaven's sake). Well done the pupils for managing to be both charming and competitive and Sarah Kerr Dineen for accepting the result with both grace and stoicism and for making us all feel so welcome. Hopefully the school can take away the positives etc etc from their defeat. The newly re-named Mike Spragg Cup was due to be presented at the sports lunch to a fanfare of praise followed by me making a tedious and lengthy speech whilst fighting back Oscar-worthy tears (maybe the only benefit of the virus cancellations). Final thanks to the 'Happy Few' (Field House folk - it's from Shakespeare) who flung themselves into the fray with a vigour which belied their years!

Let's do it all again next year on 6 and 7 March 2021. We have no age limits. We welcome men and women alike and we require only a vague understanding of the game in order to take part. Come as a group or come on your own - cliques not allowed, not even if they went to School House. ■
Floreat Oundelia
Arthur

▼ Back - Maria Yukhnovich (K 13)
flanked by Marments senior and junior
Front - youthful School squash winners



Tennis Weekend

Sophie Walker (L 10) is unapologetic about the brutality of OO tennis

I'm delighted to report a resounding OO tennis victory against the school on Sunday. A whopping 12-4 to the oldies!

Despite the score margin, the matches were of a very high quality (yes – even some of Arthur's!) with some lovely tennis being played and us clinching many of the matches on a tiebreak. This was a particularly impressive feat given that we were playing in even stronger gale force winds than usual.

We had some excellent performances from our newcomers: Tom, Michael, Georges Hughes and Marment with an MVP award to Michael for winning 4/4 rubbers. We very much hope that you won't be put off by the horrendous conditions (I wish I could say that isn't always like that but 2 Acre does seem to sit in its own wind tunnel...) and will come back next year.

Some equally stellar performances came from OO regulars Bella, Chris, Arthur, Jacky, Gordon and Tim. Bella



▲ OO tennis group including Jacky Yu, George Hughes, George Marment, Chris Piper, Tom Lloyd, Sophie Walker, Arthur Marment, Bella Ellis, Michael Doherty, Gordon Lin, Tim Judge and School players.

stole the crown this year for the slowest ace – a prize which normally goes to Arthur. I think Kyrgios himself would have been proud of the stealth

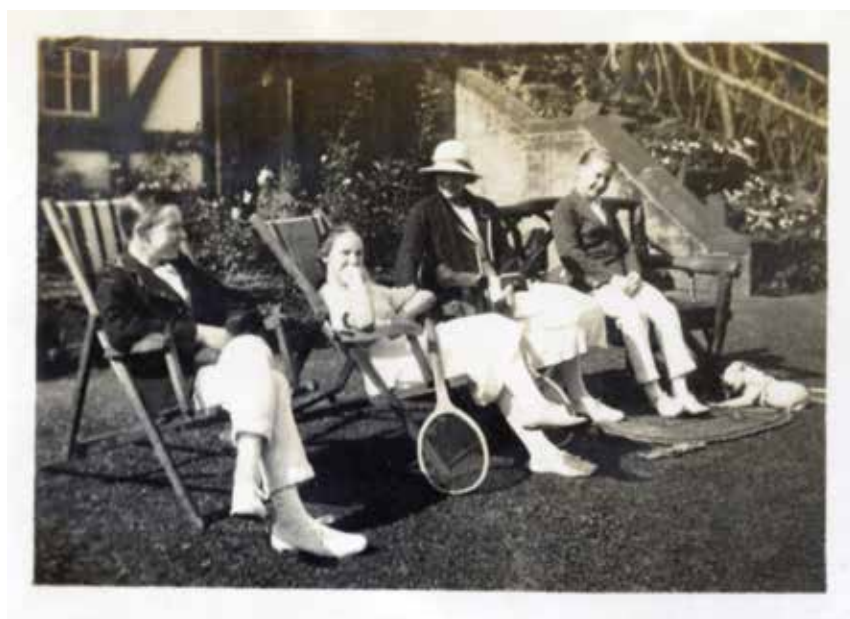
with which that drop shot serve came about. He'd also have been very proud of the brutalising forehand which Bella hit straight into her opponent's leg. No mercy from the OOs.

It's well known that an army marches on its stomach so big thanks to Arthur for the delicious brekky of sausage sarnies and millionaire shortbreads washed down with much coffee, and to our (p)resident chef, Charles!

Finally a big thank you to all who played and those who came along to support and of course to el capitano, Lance, for organising (you were much missed).

Those who were unable able to attend, hopefully we can prevail upon Lance to organise another bash at Lincoln's Inn Fields over the summer. ■

◀ JF Alcock and tennis group outside the Berrystead. A more tranquil time.



Longest Day Golf Challenge

Four recent OOs on the Fairway to Heaven

On Thursday 10 September, at Oundle golf course, George Fordy (B 18), William Richardson (S 18), Oliver Preece (B 18) and Peter Langsdale (L 18) took part in the Longest Day Golf Challenge. Wearing shirts in Macmillan green, supplied by @thefreshstuff, and lively scrubs trousers, they took on the challenge to raise funds and awareness for Macmillan Cancer Support. Their original aim was to complete four rounds of golf - a distance of about 40 km. But the team - Fairway to Heaven 7 - actually went on to complete ninety holes in just under fourteen hours, raising over £2,600.

▼ Will Richardson, George Fordy, Oli Preece, Peter Langsdale



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The Head

Sarah Kerr-Dineen considers lockdown challenges and disappointments and looks forward with optimism.

Dear OOs, Further to my message to you in May, I hope that you are and remain well and that your life is emerging happily from the restrictions of the last months. Oundle School remained fully online during the lockdown period, with the most wonderfully exciting

learning happening across the world and a sense of Oundle stronger than ever. The Fifth Form in particular have soared ahead into their A level studies – and beyond – in a way that would not have been possible had the GCSE exams gone ahead as usual. We have held a virtual Speech Day and planned our start to the



“ Pressure experienced as challenge often brings out the best in people ”

“ Pressure experienced as anxiety can often bring out the worst... ”

Michaelmas Term.

I believe that we will look back on 2020 as a year when something important changed.

The past months have reminded us of our need for human contact. There is a reason why we are not hermits. In April, we translated Oundle into Oundle Online, as fully as we possibly could, but Oundle is more than anything about people: about conversations in passing, about unspoken communication, about braving the elements or breathing in the sunshine as you move about the School and town with your friends, about enjoying each other's company.

The period of lockdown has also exposed the ways in which humans react to pressure. Pressure experienced as challenge often brings out the best in people. Across the pupil and staff body, different people have had different experiences of lockdown, and the resilience of many has been simply extraordinary. In all sorts of important ways, Oundle School as a whole has flourished and the qualities of resourcefulness, optimism and kindness we associate with Oundelians have shone through.

Pressure experienced as anxiety and unaccustomed powerlessness, however, can often bring out the worst in people. We know that. But when it is an entire community – an entire country – affected, the fragility of human behaviour under strain is writ large. Remote communication is by its nature unsatisfactory: the intention of the message sent is not always the inference drawn from the message received; venting spleen and frustration into the apparent void results in things being written that would never be said face-to-face.

The global nature of the experience has shone a spotlight on world-wide issues of injustice, discrimination and social division. With the heightened emotional charge of life in lockdown, and without the distractions of normal life to cocoon us in intellectual and moral autopilot, we have all been forced to look deep within ourselves, to acknowledge the assumptions

and prejudices that inform our view of the world. This may in the end be the most enduring legacy of the pandemic: I hope so. Life is precious; every life is precious.

Meanwhile the newest recruits to the great OO community – this year's Upper Sixth – have been denied all the leaving rites of passage to which they will have been looking forward, in some cases since they joined the School, and with these the sense of an ending. You will remember your own leaving rituals, whatever they looked like at the point when you left Oundle, and what they meant to you. This year's leavers go onto the next stage of their lives having already shown the resilience to succeed when things don't go to plan and the optimism to look for the good in a challenging situation. It has been hard on them, nonetheless.

Our pupils returned in September. Who knows what the longer term effects of a period of virtual school might be for them, and indeed for their generation? I remain optimistic in that they will have learned things they would not otherwise have learned, but there is work to be done over a sustained period of time if they are to be able to move ahead confidently.

In the midst of so much that has been difficult, the finished Sports Centre is a delight to behold: it is magnificent and such a positive statement with which to reopen the School. We hope that we will be able to incorporate its formal opening within the postponed celebrations scheduled to mark 30 years of coeducation at Oundle.

Once travel and gatherings are again allowed, I hope to see as many of you as possible before too long. I value your company and your interest in the School of today enormously, as you know. I look forward both in hope and expectation to future dinners, and to the many other opportunities across the year to see you in person.

**For now, this comes with my warmest best wishes,
Sarah ■**

The Director

Matthew Dear reflects on engaging with the Oundle Society

This year was always going to be a kairos moment in the School's development. The final piece of the 2020 development plan, the Sports Centre, was to be completed, and we were to turn our attention to what would come next. Running the risk of sounding like a politician caught on the hop, nothing has changed. The Sports Centre is very nearly finished as I sit down to write, thanks to our contractors and the School's own project manager, Amy Scott, having done a quite tremendous job of adapting to the challenges posed by the pandemic. When it fully opens, it will be the boon for Oundle's young sportsmen and women that we always hoped it would be, and the sense of excitement in the town is palpable too.

We will, however, be facing a new reality. Thanks to incredible work by the Governors, the Leadership Team, and the Bursary in particular, we will face that reality with confidence despite the enormous upheavals of recent months. No-one can yet assess fully the medium- and long-term impact of the pandemic on the economy, nor on society in its widest sense. Two things, however, are incontrovertible. Firstly, that our constitutionally-mandated mission to provide an education of the highest quality remains as relevant as ever; and secondly that our pursuit of that mission will focus squarely on how we relate to the world around us, and ensure that promising children from all backgrounds are able to access what we have to offer. Whilst many people will sadly struggle with the world as it now is, the opportunity to redouble our efforts to be relevant and accessible presents itself compellingly. It follows that, as never before, our charitable mission - and our fundraising for it - will be at the forefront of everybody's minds.

It is encouraging that as we contemplate and plan for this new reality, we look back on a year which has seen the generosity of the Oundle community play a fundamental part in enabling us to achieve that mission. Some £2.4m in voluntary funding was received by the Foundation during the year - the second highest total ever. This included a large donation to fund a five-year Bursary for a child from a particularly disadvantaged background, who will have full access not only to an Oundle education and the uniform, equipment and trips which form a part of it, but, carefully and under the tutelage of both senior staff and the donor, to other opportunities which reduce the risk of their feeling marginalised, such as the ability to visit peers in their homes during exeat, or join them on holiday. Schemes such as this can only be sustained through voluntary funding, and we are at once both proud and humbled to be in a position to offer such bursaries.

It has been a particular shame not to have been able to see so many of you at events for the major part of this year. In May, we were to have hosted a reunion for School House boys from the late 1950s and early 1960s, which all concerned were thoroughly looking forward to. And, as much as all of our social calendars have been thoroughly disrupted, it felt particularly disconcerting not to be standing in a field in Henley in early July.

We have, however, increased our online offering in ways which will surely continue, even when we begin to gather face-to-face once again. It's been wonderful to see so many familiar faces joining www.oonetwork.org.uk and making use of the opportunities that it presents. We've also thoroughly enjoyed our interactions with many of you on



social media, as we've shared stories, anecdotes, and material from our Archive - filling in some gaps and clarifying some old folklore as we've done so! It's also been lovely that some musical activities at the School were able to continue remotely, and that we were able to stream them live around the world for the first time.

I was particularly touched that an email to donors early in the lockdown period prompted a flurry of friendly telephone calls, enquiring how we all were, and it was lovely to know that those who called were well and coping, too. As pivotal as it is, fundraising is just one part of our efforts to build community and connect people with one another: with the School at our heart and an eye on doing our best for the next generation. I hope that you will continue to engage with us online, and also that in the coming year it will be possible to see you at events once again. Whether it's enjoying each other's company, mentoring and advising one another, supporting each other's businesses, or funding futures at Oundle School, we are enormously grateful for your continued engagement with Oundle and look forward to the year ahead. ■

Staff Farewell

JOHN ARKELL

John was organ scholar of St Mary's Collegiate Church, Warwick and the University of Warwick where he read for a joint degree in Music and English. He taught in several schools before being appointed Head of Academic Music at Oundle in September 1997. In early 1999 John was appointed School Organist and began his long and devoted service to the life of the Chapel. He holds Fellowship diplomas in organ performance from the Royal College of Organists, Trinity College London and the London College of Music. In 2000, John was made a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and in 2009 he received a Fellowship of the Guild of Musicians and Singers for his work in choral music. On sabbatical in 2006, he was appointed Fellow Commoner at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge. He has written a number of books, including the latest textbook for Music GCSE, arranged numerous works for pipe organ and published programme notes for BBC Radio 3. From 2003-2018 he was the Musical Director of the Oundle and District Choral Society.

In the classroom, John's knowledge of the exam syllabus gave pupils a real understanding of how to answer a question the way the examiner wanted. He spent every holiday either writing a new book or chairing meetings of examiners, and indeed this is how he met his wife Elizabeth. Pupils enjoyed his no-nonsense approach, his warmth, his razor-sharp wit and his wise tutelage. Well-read and with a particular passion for Graham Greene, John shared his love of the arts with a humility and restraint that belied his wisdom and astuteness.

On the pastoral side, John was Deputy Housemaster in Sanderson from 1999-2003, helping David Turner when Sanderson became a girls' House in 2000. He later tutored in



Laxton as Head of Middle Years (or 'Middle Earth' as he called it).

When pupils or staff roll up for Chapel they rarely know how much preparation goes on. John was one of the few who understood the demands on a Chaplain. Like the Chaplain, he was there an hour before the service and frequently an hour after. He would often be found practising on the Chapel organs and delighted in having the world famous Frobenius at his disposal. He was eager to introduce the canon of good church music to all. He went with the Chapel Choir to various cathedrals to play for Choral Evensong and helped on choir tours. He was generous with prospective OO brides and grooms wishing to get married in the Chapel, giving his time to talk through various musical options with them. He did not have an agenda, nothing was off limits and he was flexible and open to suggestions. Elizabeth and he asked Rev Brian Cunningham to conduct their marriage in the School Chapel in August 2016 a beautiful occasion.

As an organ teacher, he schooled those pupils lucky enough to play on

the organ of St Paul's cathedral for the 2006 service for the 450th Anniversary of the School. He was always modest about his own recitals - but how many people could play Messiaen's *La Nativité*?

There are surprises, too. Who would have guessed his love of exotic fast cars? Or his guilty pleasure in *Coronation Street*? I feel fortunate that twenty of my Oundle years have coincided with John's twenty-two. I will always be grateful to have known him - a great listener, a great storyteller, a friendly and easy-going personality who was great fun.

John's career was tragically cut short two years ago in August 2018 when he suffered a stroke. Thanks to Elizabeth's dedication, he has made a miraculous recovery. We miss John's company; we miss him in the Music Department and we miss him in the Chapel. He is blessed to have a loving and dedicated wife in Elizabeth, and two children - Old Oundelians **Fleur** (L 14) and **Miles** (L 17) - of whom he is very proud. We wish him a long and happy retirement. ■

Sarah Johnson

Laxton Junior School

2019/2020 began with momentum and positivity, as LJS launched a number of new projects. In particular, 'responsive teaching' would empower teaching staff to understand with precision each child's learning journey and respond to this through the adaptation of subsequent lessons. The development of a woodland garden also began, as we looked to create an engaging 'forest school' space with a strong community focus. The project would combine with an outdoor learning programme that would facilitate adventurous learning across and beyond the curriculum.

In March, the landscape shifted significantly as all schools were asked to close. Thanks to the extraordinary efforts of LJS staff, every aspect of LJS life was transferred online in order to

provide a strong sense of continuity for our children; this included lessons, assemblies, afterschool clubs, House competitions, online galleries, video blogs from the Head Boy and Girl, music tuition and live sessions. Alongside this, staff from both Schools provided care and learning to the children of key workers.

The year concluded with primary schools being asked to reopen and the LJS staff, superbly supported by departments from across the organisation, rose to the challenge, bringing Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 back to School whilst simultaneously delivering quality online provision to Years 2 to 5. It was a magnificent effort by all involved and our sincere thanks go to all the staff who gave absolutely everything to ensure the children's health, safety, wellbeing and learning

were prioritised every step of the way.

As the year concludes, we say farewell to a number of our staff: Mrs R Cornwell, Director of Music; Mrs L Taylor, Admissions and Business Manager; Mrs C Donaldson, Griffin Club Leader; and Miss C Randeria, Key Stage 1 Teaching Assistant. They will all be very much missed. We are, however, excited to welcome Miss J Freeman, Head of Educational Support; and Miss H Tatler, Year 1 Teacher.

Whilst further challenges may await us in September, we look forward to bringing LJS back together in its entirety. There are exciting plans for further development on the horizon and much for us to be optimistic about in 2020/2021. ■

Mr Sam Robertson,
Head of Laxton Junior School

Outreach and Partnerships

Seeking opportunities to forge relationships and to have an impact upon the wider community is the focus of our Outreach and Partnerships programme and our work through the Oundle, Peterborough and East Northants (OPEN) Learning Partnership remains fundamental to realising our vision. In September 2019, Imperial College London formally joined as the first university partner and has added considerable resource. The College focuses upon outreach to disadvantaged children and the Oundle programme offers an ability to increase the College's 'reach' in our locality, particularly in schools serving low-income communities. Twenty Oundelians joined pupils from Prince William School (PWS), Thomas Deacon Academy (TDA) and Kettering Buccleuch Academy (KBA) at the

College for the Christmas Lecture, this year given by Helen Sharman, Britain's first astronaut. In March, we were also pleased to hear from the Department for Education that the OPEN Learning Partnership has secured funding of £20,000 to be used in creating a STEM resource library to share with local schools and to provide teacher training in Physics.

Relationships between our local schools remain strong and Oundle has benefitted from facilities shared by both Oundle CE Primary School and PWS. New this year was a Creative Writing competition through which over 1000 children in Year 5 and Third Form wrote entries. Year 5 work was judged by a panel of Sixth Form pupils from Oundle and PWS, whilst shortlisted pieces by the Third Form, written for a younger audience, were read to Year 5 children who voted for their favourites. 'Gummi

Bear' by Isabella Haidar (L) was the eventual winner.

Steve Adams, a highly experienced Head of Science, joined Oundle in September to lead our Science outreach work and to add his expertise to the Oundle Physics department. Miss Dory Polos, our first Imperial College London Outreach Fellow, has also brought a strong academic background to both her teaching of Biology and Chemistry, in addition to the Science clubs that she leads each week at TDA, KBA and Oundle CE Primary School as part of our agreement with the College. Thanks to the contributions of staff and pupils in English, Mathematics, Science, DET, Careers, Art, PE, Classics, Debating and others, outreach programmes in the last year provided opportunities for over 2500 pupils from partner schools. ■

Gordon Montgomery

Archive Report 2019-2020

Elsbeth Langsdale reports from The Archive's new home

It has, of course, been an unusual close to the academic year for the Archive. Not only were we in the middle of a relocation from Cripps Library to Cobthorne Stables, but then like everybody else, we had to cope with lockdown.

For the past six months, the focus in the Archive has been on the pandemic and how best to record the School's reaction to this extraordinary situation and how it has affected the School community. Official School communications have been chronicled and will form part of the permanent archival record. Added to this will be other initiatives such as a diary that one of our pupil volunteers kept during the summer term and any letters or emails that have been sent in to the Archives.

The normal day-to-day business of research enquiries has continued and this year the Archive has received hundreds of research enquiries on topics such as former pupils, staff, uniform, traditions, sport, agriculture and general social history. The Archive is a rich source of information and is freely available to all interested parties. The Oundle Museum and members of local history groups are regular users and requests for lectures and tours on areas of School history are becoming increasingly popular.

Radio has recently featured in the Archive diary with the Archivist being interviewed by BBC Northamptonshire for its Virtual Heritage Trail. It has also been highlighted with a regular slot on Oscar Radio featuring 'Poems from the Past', archive musical recordings and an archive quiz.

One of the oldest artefacts in the School is the brass plate (pictured, right) that was unveiled in 1593 by William Pamphlon (Headmaster 1583 – 1596). Its inscriptions are in Latin, Greek and Hebrew with the Arms and Crest of Sir William Laxton, the Coat of Arms of the City of London

on one side and that of the Grocers' Company on the other. Earlier in the year, it was removed and restored by a specialist conservation company, and in September it will be re-hung in Laxton Cloisters.

Our thanks go to the Old Oundelian Club for continued support, to all our contributors, and those who connected with us via letter, email and social media. The long awaited Archive relocation is nearly finished and we look forward to welcoming you to our new home in the recently renovated Stables on West Street. ■



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OXFORD UNIVERSITY: Position open

Berks, Bucks and Oxon

Charles Miller (Ldr 76)

Rather like most of the country, most of my regular contributors seemed to have gone to ground. 2020 has not been a vintage year for Bucks, Berks and Oxon.

However, many OOs have been active, including **Richard Dawkins** (Ldr 59). The paperback version of his latest book, *Outgrowing God*, is being published by Penguin in September. He is working on *Flights of Fancy*, the evolution of flying in animals and human technology. In addition, his autobiography, *An Appetite for Wonder*, has a whole chapter about Oundle during his schooldays.

Angharad Marment (D 10) is busy planning her wedding next Spring after her fiancé proposed on Valentine's Day. She continues to keep in touch with **Leonora Forrest**, **Emma Greenlees** and **Zoe Rice** (all Dryden 2010) and is still enjoying working at PwC.

Henry Bryers (Lx 96) stayed with **Sam Coates** (Lx 96) as part of a family holiday in France last summer. He hopes to continue with his annual salmon fishing trip to the Tyne this year with **Olly Hallam** (Sc 96) amongst others.

Douglas Oppenheim (C 94) lives in West Berkshire with his wife Maryn and children Lucas (8), Freya (5) and Marcus (4). Doug founded Palladian Investment Partners, a private equity firm, just over a year ago and is busy building the business. He retired as chairman of the British Exploring Society in late 2019 having served on its board for over a decade. He still sees plenty of **Sarah Gill** - née **Logan** (K 94) and has reconnected with **Mike Laing** (Ldr 94) with whom he enjoys comparing notes on vinous matters.

► Left to right, James Rennie, Davin, Me, James Roe, Richard

Charles Inchbald (G 91) met **Andy Salmon** (G 91) on one of his trips back from Auckland where he now lives with his wife and two children. His brother **Tom Salmon** (G 94) has taken up cycling.

Charles continues to live in Beaconsfield, working in finance at Tate & Lyle and cycling, golfing and gardening at weekends. His brother **Alex Salmon** (G 92) has moved to Switzerland with his wife and two young children where they love living on Lake Geneva.

Michael Ballard (G 88) met up with **Chris Williams** (Ldr 88), **Marcus Lieberman** (LS 88), **Brynmor Lloyd-Evans** (D 88) and **Vikram Sachdeva** (LS 88) for their annual pre-Christmas meal.

Will Smith (C 19) is halfway through his training contract at Linklaters. He has been working from home and hasn't physically met anyone in his new department. He sees plenty of **George Mennem** (Ldr 13).

John Meighan (Ldr 55) reports that his son, **Mike Meighan** (Ldr 90), is having a difficult time with his courses as a result of the pandemic. His new schooner is



close to completion in Bangkok. Mike continues to move between his houses in Amersham and Siesta Key which is close to Mike and his family. He has not seen any other OOs apart from **James Crockett** (G 91) and Hon OO **Norman Brittain**.

Matthew Perowne (Ldr 01) has a young family, which does not allow for much free time. He met up with **Tom Earnshaw** (Ldr 01), **Henry Bryers** (Lx 96), **JJ Harris** (Lx 91) and **Alex Deacon** (Lx 90) last summer at the bi annual Wargrave Festival.

Peter Colville (Ldr 92) met up with **James Rennie** (Ldr 92) who splits his time between Hong Kong and Switzerland, **Davin Mole** (Ldr 92) who also lives in Switzerland with his family, **Richard Teverson** (Ldr 92) who is based in London with his



◀ husband and splits his time between acting and corporate training, and **James Roe** (Ldr 92) who is a partner at Allen and Overy. He also sees **Paul Roebuck** (Ldr 92) who has just moved to Michigan and **Greg Thomas** (Ldr 92) who is a partner at Allen and Overy and lives in Oxford with his partner, Ian.

Gavin Bisdee (St A 85) has been playing darts via Zoom with **Matt Kennett's** (Lx 86) family and fielding WhatsApp messages from **Phil Massey** (St A 85). He has also had socially distanced conversations in the back of **Simon Gordon's** (Lx 85) garden. He also ran into **Will Massey** (B 82) and his sons, bodyboarding and playing golf in Devon last summer.

Arthur Marment (D 87) followed Wales in Japan with his son **George Marment** (B 12) and met up with **Marcus Everard** (B 77) and **Dominic Al-Badri** (N 88) who both live in Japan.

Arthur is a great supporter of the OO MultiSports weekend and thoroughly enjoyed seeing so many there just before the lockdown. Since then he has had to make do with moaning about the lack of sport to **Lance Ashworth** (St A 79) and **Guy Beresford** (B 81).

Brian Trent (Sc 58) attended **Christopher Pocock's** (Sc 60) memorial service in October last year. Christopher died in May 2019. The service was held at The Wren Chapel, Royal Hospital Chelsea and was followed by a drinks reception held in the State Apartments. There were a dozen or so OOs present. It was during this sad event that the idea of a School House reunion for leavers between the years 1955 and 1965 was suggested. Under the organising skills of **Richard Bailey** (Sc 60), **Nigel Napier-Andrews** (Sc 59) and **Alistair Shaw** (Sc 59) this was arranged to take place at Oundle on 6 May 2020. By the time the lockdown came it looked as if attendances would hit about two dozen. It would be good if it could be held next year when perhaps more School House OOs of that period can be found to swell the numbers.

Brian is also sorry to report that

Andy Gordon-Stewart (Sc 57) has been unwell since last summer and is now in a care home in Banbury. Brian managed to visit him in hospital and the care home before the lockdown.

Simon Gordon (Lx 85) shoots regularly with **Francois Austin** (D 84) and **Richard Wilson** (C 84) as well as skiing with Francois and **Craig Lockhart** (Sc 82).

Jay Cartwright (S 71) reports that daughter **Jo Cartwright** (W 05) and husband Tom Draper, having been locked down in Suffolk and both working remotely during the coronavirus pandemic, are now back in London where further work on their house has started. Jo and Tom are expecting their first baby in September and, meanwhile, having been promoted to Head of Decorating by Nina Campbell, Jo has been managing international projects online from home. **Kate Quinn** (D 05) and husband Ed Cranfield welcomed their first baby, William, in January this year. Kate and Ed continue to work in Paris.

Over the last 12 months, Jay's brother **Philip Cartwright** (S 69) and wife Susie have visited both Australia and Canada to visit two of Susie's daughters. Phil is still working on his golf handicap and is now a parish councillor. He recently saw near neighbour, **Chunks Bowden** (Sc 68) although, as for so many of us, social contact has been severely curtailed. **Ian Hodgson** (Sc 78) and **Al Gordon** (C 69) have overseen a major reorganisation at Denham Golf Club as Chairman and Treasurer respectively. The changes are very welcome and clearly demonstrate OO decisiveness! Jay has been in touch with **Roger Page** (S 71). Roger and Alison's daughter Hannah was planning to marry fiance Alexander in France in August of this year, but plans have been necessarily postponed until May of next year when we shall hopefully all be free to travel.

Alan Biggar (S 71) has remarried and is still involved with charity work. He and new wife Alison live in Bo'ness, between Edinburgh and Glasgow.

Calum Stewart (S 17) spent the

first part of the academic year from October to December in Venice, learning about the Renaissance along with the Italian language. After Calum's return to the UK, he graduated from Warwick University and now has a place at BPP in London on their PGDL Law Conversion course.

Earlier this year, Jay was in contact with **John Granger** (C 71). Jay and Julia were all set to visit John and husband Tim for lunch but were thwarted by the coronavirus lockdown. John and Tim lead a very busy social life in their Cambridgeshire village and will doubtless reinstate their extensive travel plans to visit friends when Government restrictions allow.

Jay and Julia visited Japan back in November and had a very memorable holiday. They linked up with Jo and Tom who were also there combining a holiday with attendance at the Rugby World Cup. Everyone was extremely friendly and the bullet trains were as fast and clean as expected. The food varied considerably and Jay drew the line at 'meat colon skewers'!

Peter Sutcliffe (N 54) is locked down in Cape Town and not in any great hurry to return to the UK despite having a new car project – a 1907 Brasier Voiture Course.

Edward West (C 88) is coaching the world to perfect their virtual Zoom communications. One client is **Hugo James** (Sc 88) and he has shared a Zoom drink with **Ed Stone** (St A 88). He also spoke with **Dan Burman** (Lx 88) who has just become CEO of the advertising company, Chapter. Edward's brother **Philip West** (C 86) is busier than ever and thriving during lockdown at his IT firm.

JJ Harris (Lx 91) still managed to meet up with lots of OOs over the last 12 months.

The Mostyns cricket team had another great tour in September, this time starting at the Oval Ashes test and finishing with a great game at Barley in Cambridgeshire. OOs in the team were **Oliver Thain** (Lx 90), **Alex Deacon**, **David Ffoulkes-Jones** (Lx 90), **David Robinson** (Lx 90), **Dan Anslow** (S 90), **James Spragg**

► Left to right, Andrew Davidson Hogg, Paul AJ Clark and David A Richards

(Sch 90), **Leckie Waterhouse** (Sn 90), **Phil Dobson** (Sn 90).

The Wargrave OO team of **Alex Deacon, Matt Perowne** and **Henry Bryers** have all managed to meet up on numerous occasions, even by Zoom during lockdown.

Unfortunately the Halford Hewitt was cancelled this year, but last year the OO team under JJ's captaincy did make the finals at Hunstanton and Royal West Norfolk, although a first round close defeat to the Leys was not the required result. They have qualified for the finals again this year in Norfolk.

Andrew Kerr (Sc 73) is still very much enjoying retirement - walking, golf, travelling, watching football and charity work. His eldest son delivered his second grandchild (first granddaughter) in Toronto in January. He saw his brother **Mark Kerr** (Sc 74) in November at their step-mother's 90th birthday party, with his father **Ian Kerr** (S 46). Andrew has been supporting his father and stepmother in Winchester since lockdown, visiting when and where allowed. The big event for Andrew from an OO perspective was a get-together for School House leavers of 1972, brilliantly organised by Simon Turner at Grocers Hall last October. In the attached pictures, you can see Andrew, Dave Kidd, Andrew Sharpley, Simon Turner, Simon Redfern, Geordie McI Hayward, William Bagshaw, David Robinson, Peter Edwards - all of whom left at the end of 1972

After seven years in post, **David Hollander** (Sn 77) stepped down as Chair of the Governors at Beacon Prep School in Amersham (a long-time feeder school for Oundle), last Summer and I am pleased to report that your correspondent has now taken the role. David has expressed delight that another Old Oundelian has 'taken over'. David reports that his time as Chair has helped to prepare him for new commercial roles that he has started in the last year as



Chair of Motocaddy, the electric golf-trolley firm, and MYCS a Berlin-based eCommerce furniture business. He remains CEO of cleantech toilet firm, Propelair.

John Chadwick (St A 71) is enjoying his retirement with trips to the Verdi Opera Festival in Parma and the Languedoc with a Master of Wine. He also greatly enjoyed the Over 60s lunch just before lockdown. He was in touch with **Malcolm Walters** (D 72) and **Timothy Tebbs** (D 72) during the year.

Jonathan Andrews (Sc 84) is missing the cricket at Lords but still sees many OOs at Denham Golf Club, including the chairman, **Ian Hodgson** (Sc 78) and the treasurer **Al Gordon** (C 69). Jonathan continues to work with **Rupert Harris** (Ldr 87).

David A Richards (S 78) is pleased to report that his request in last year's OO magazine to track down **Andrew Davidson Hogg** (S 78) was successful, following a timely tip-off from **Shane Dodd** (Sn 74). In fact, in honour of ITV's *Long Lost Family* programme, a reunion did take place at the Talbot Inn, Oundle in January, but without Nicky Campbell or Davina McCall in attendance. **Paul AJ Clark** (S 78) also attended the lunchtime soiree; the three of them hadn't been face-to-face together for over 40 years so there was a lot of ground to cover. Today, David is pleased to confirm that the three are still in contact via a well-known 21st Century computer

app. Here's a photo of the old codgers in January.

The boys who entered School House in September 1955 had a sudden spell of activity this year. There were twelve, and six were traced by **Richard Bailey** (Sc 60), still survive and have email addresses. Three met for the first time in 60 years. They are **Richard Bailey**, **Nigel Napier-Andrews** (Sc 59) **Alistair Shaw** (Sc 59) **Mike Ross** (Sc 60) and **Malcolm Llewellyn** (Sc 60). **Guy Sinclair** (Sc 60) is the other survivor.

We found 33 others, and partners, who were at School House within a span of five years, and who wanted to attend a reunion. They had planned to meet at Oundle on 6 June 2020, stay mainly in the Talbot Inn, and co-ordinated tours with the School, but, unfortunately, the event was postponed. They hope to reorganise it for 2021.

I keep busy, am still working and I have taken over as chairman of the Governors at The Beacon School in Amersham. My daughter **Rebecca Miller** (K 09) has been staying with us during lockdown and has moved jobs within Sainsbury from Commercial Strategy to bringing in new distinctive brands. **Tom Miller** (Ldr 07) continues to work in restructuring complex businesses and debt. He is in the middle of a major refurbishment of his house in London. ►

Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, South & West Yorkshire

Richard Ellis (Sn 86)

Firstly my thanks all the people who have responded to the call for news, a smaller number than usual sadly.

The call to action prompted some very quick responses. One respondent was very chuffed with himself as to being the first to reply, until I informed my cousin in the office next door that someone had beaten him by 13 minutes.

The first responder **Robin Johnson** (St A 81) reports life and work coming to a shuddering halt. Having set up an office in Chicago in June last year he had been spending most of his time there but has not been since February and is unlikely to get back there until 2021.

He does report that the unintended consequence of this is that he has seen his wife more in the last four months than it seems in the last 28 years and he reports to having really enjoyed the experience! The opening of golf courses has allowed sanity to return and as well as being a member at Alwoodley, he is now also a member at Ganton, feeling fortunate to play at two of the best courses in Yorkshire. He reports of contact with **Bill Simms** (C 81), **Jonathan Turner** (S 84) and **Ian Young** (Sn 81).

Returning to the silver medallist responder, **Tom Ellis** (Sn 91), he continues in the family business with yours truly. He keeps his cycling going wearing the appropriately entitled cycling brand "Fat Lad at the Back" lycra. Contact with other OOs is heavily weighted around family meetings having been in contact with **Roger Ellis** (Sn 56) and **James Ellis** (Sn 63), **Isobel Ellis** (Sn 14) and also with his father in law **Peter Cole** (Sn 54) and his brother **Antony Cole** (Sn 56). Other interactions have been with fellow "Yorkshire Players" **Guy Ackernley** (Sc 94) and **Will Roberts** (N 94). He also sees reasonably regularly the likes of **Adam Shaw**

(S 81), **Ian Lane** (Ldr 77) and **Mike Haigh** (Sc 87) in various public houses around and about. He enjoyed bumping into **Nick Bloom** (Sn 92) at the OO London dinner establishing that they had both been at the RWC final in Japan a couple of weeks before – Nick in fine form as a Springbok supporter. As to any requests for advertising revenue (a standard part of the call to all OOs) came back with the polite decline of a response that his new kitchen would take priority in the funding pile! I have a sneaking suspicion I know where that will be coming from!

Bob Harrap (B 68) replied that like the rest of us it had been pretty difficult in recent times to have much on the go; however he was present late last year at the wedding of his son **Jon** (B 05) in Manhattan to wife Emily. His daughter **Bryony Harrap** (N 08), **Chris Nicholls** (G 69) and **Ian Lane**. He also recalls being present at Bryony's 30th birthday party at a night club in London but fails to recall its name. He sees many OOs in the field during the shooting season, and was part of a group attending a long lunch during the test match recently where half were OOs.

Martin Monnickendam (N 77) reports that he met up for an evening meal at the Talbot Hotel in January 2020 with Roger and Christine Freebairn. Joining them were **Roderick McGillvary** (N 77), **Dave Holliday** (N 77), **Dave Anderson** (N 76), **Royston Beldam** (N 78), **Jim Bennett** (N 77), **Tim Bass** (N 74), **Anthony Wright** (N 77), **Jonathan Darnell** (N 76) and **Chris Johnstone** (N 76). For some it was the first time they had been together for 44 years but as expected it seemed as if no time had passed at all. Martin continues to work in the care sector which has been challenging.

One of the regular respondents to the call for information is **Anthony**



Hackforth (N 64) who of recent years has been touring the inns of Yorkshire as mentioned in columns in previous years. Being more adventurous and taking advantage of senior rail cards his wife and he had been travelling to London for four days per month for the last 14 months to stay with family and friends, visiting museums, galleries and theatre and reliving their youth as London was their home in the late 60's/early 70's. Alas Covid 19 and the national lock down has put paid to that, so they now content themselves with keeping in touch with family and friends using the wonders of Skype, Zoom and Facetime.

John Bagnall (Sn 59) replied that he, **Michael Humphrey** (G 49) and **Alick Whittle** (N 52) had all been Presidents of the National Federation of Painting Contractors, the three of them also being trustees of funds that provide for the cost of an annual lunch at the RAF Club in Piccadilly. John's son **Stephen Bagnall** (Sn 86) now heads up the family painting contracting business based in Shipley although operating nationally (having done an excellent job on our factories a couple of years ago). He reports the sad passing of Alick who died last year, a member of the 1st X1 cricket team for three years and also in later life being a keen golfer.

Roger Ellis (Sn 56), my father, was fortunate to have enjoyed pre-lockdown four weeks in South America in February, travelling north to south in Argentina with brief forays into Uruguay and Brazil. Whilst in Argentina, much to the amusement of family members

present, he found himself riding a polo pony and even playing in a short friendly match. Returning home, the garden was knocked into shape and latterly he has found himself playing a lot of golf. He continues with his duties as Vice President of Woodsome Hall GC. His grandson **George Kaye** (S 08) continues to live and work in Monaco where he is a lawyer. He is still in contact with **Paul Gardner** (Sn 56), **Graham Yorke** (Sn 56) and **Christopher England** (Lx 54) and was an attendee at the earlier mentioned OO over-populated test match lunch.

Pete Southby (Lx 91) was kind enough to send an essay's worth of news. He enjoyed a delightfully sunny skiing holiday at his French retreat along with **Jason Koenig** (LS 91) and his family at the start of the year. Jason is enjoying a break from leading the Classics department at St Andrews in order to undertake some research and writing; apparently the next bestseller is on its way! **Stuart Morgan** (Lx 91) made the remarkably far-sighted decision to move on from Easyjet before the recent pandemic hit, and apparently life in investor relations at Capita is just as challenging. We should be patient as the share price does not as yet reflect all his good work.

Pete stays in touch with **George Hammon** (Sn 91) who is based in Geneva, having had a tough year with a health scare but on the road to recovery now. However, he claims that the loss of what little of his hair remained has been as a result of spending more time at home with his young family.

James Southby (St A 02) has had a particularly difficult few months with the marketplace for his event management business effectively closing down overnight. Fortunately he was well prepared for the downturn following an extremely busy 2019 that included delivering pop up theatres in the round for a season of Shakespeare plays in York and at Blenheim, supporting artists including Bjork and providing full audio production for the acoustic stage at last year's Glastonbury

festival. **Sarah Gothard** (née Southby , W 94) is in high demand as a private educational psychologist in Gloucestershire while studying for a doctorate. Keen to prove that the Oundle connections endure, Alan Midgley and Robin Veit (respectively his History and French teachers in the 1980s) were lined up to attend his silver wedding celebrations in France this summer, but Covid 19 has put paid to this gathering. Pete continues to earn a crust at EMIS Group and is still working hard with the challenges of sorting out the mess that is software in the NHS where he reports there are encouraging signs of progress. He continues to spend, according to his wife, far too much time on his bike, riding mostly virtually this year but getting increasingly excited by prospects of actually cycling properly and lists amongst his recent achievements being king of the mountains on a few Strava segments.

Gary Bosworth (LS 98) commented that after twelve years at the University of Lincoln he recently started a new position as a Professor of Rural Entrepreneurship at Northumbria University. Trying to relocate the family in these times has been stressful but he hopes they will all be settled in the North East by the time this magazine is published.

David Thorpe (Ldr 53) replied that after 30 years with British Airways he returned to the 140 year old family store and is now a shopkeeper selling furniture, prams and nursery goods - seriously old fashioned with hand written receipt books et al. He very much prefers to meet customers face to face with the strap line of "Meet the Boss and do a Deal" which, as he says, you can't do at John Lewis. Having been in the 1952 unbeaten rugby side he still enjoys going out in the company delivery van.

Richard Law (Sn 79) replied from the Algarve where he was busy playing lockdown golf, he described it as "Millionaires' Golf" as the courses were deserted. He was playing a group of his pals from prep school and with his son **Charlie Law** (S 16) - who he also reports

as enjoying the golf. Richard is a keen supporter of OO Golf in the Northern region and once again is looking forward to the Luffenham weekend later this year.

Ian Lane's (Ldr 77) news is somewhat stunted by the complete lack of travel where he tends to see OOs outside God's only County. OO President **Charles Miller** (Ldr 76) did manage to text him recently to tell him that his Croatian sailing trip with the family was going well and although he missed our Lords annual re-union, he felt much healthier for it! His own trips to the Balearics where we always meet **Dominic Shapiro** (Sn 81) have also been curtailed this year but he is keeping well and managing to cope with the sun and sangria life there! Ian hasn't seen **Tim Waring** (Ldr 76) since he fled back to North Yorkshire but knows where to find him! He sees plenty of **Ben Jones** (C 95) on the shoot up in the Dales. Business, he reports, is very busy as farmers returned to their land after five months of weather misery and fortunately managed to keep going all the way through lockdown. Ian is also a very happy grandfather as son Tom had a baby girl in December.

Mike Haigh (Sc 87) reports from the beach in Sandsend that he is enjoying a glass or two.

As for me - the business world has been a challenge of late but normality is starting to return, or the 'new normal' as people refer to it. Lockdown came at the conclusion of the shooting season, which was a blessing, having shot over the season with many of the aforementioned names in this column. I see around town **Stephen Bagnall** (Sn 86) and **Mark Elliott** (Ldr 83) amongst others at various social gatherings. I did have a great last minute weekend trip to Japan for the RWC Final in November with Tom (as mentioned earlier) and daughter Isobel Ellis) who conscientiously flew back that night straight after the match in order to be at her blackboard teaching on the Monday morning. Isobel has qualified as a teacher and is now deputy head of sixth form at her south London school where she

◀ has been working non-stop through lockdown. She is in regular touch with the Sanderson cohort of 2014 leavers, **Mimi Montieth** (Sn 14), **Polly Duggan** (Sn 14) and **Hannah Day** (Sn 14). She shared a flat for some time with **Emily Bainbridge** (K 14) – well, crashed at Emily’s during lockdown courtesy of father **Guy Bainbridge’s** (Sn 78) hospitality, and regularly sees **Fleur Arkell** (L 14), **David Bolle-Jones** (St A 14)

and is now sharing a flat with **Phoebe Alexander** (L 15) in Balham or, as they call it, The Bahamas.

Leo Ford (S 2001) says travel agency business is bit on the rocks at the moment, but he hopes there will be a bounce back soon. He is still living in Nottingham with his wife Lisa and daughter Camilla, now 6, and wonders if there are any anniversary parties planned for the 2001 leavers.



▲ OO Rugby supporters in Japan

East Midlands

Chris Piper (Sc 71)

The lack of news this year can be put down to the pandemic – I imagine many OOs have been in lockdown so therefore it follows that any news would be rather mundane! I hope you have all taken the opportunity to do all those jobs in the home that had fallen by the wayside.

Some of you were very much on the ball as no sooner than I sent my e-mail out asking for news, I got an immediate reply from **Louisa Hotson** (D 07) who wrote about births in the family:

Anthony Hotson (Lx 72) and his wife Louann became grandparents twice over in early 2020.

Louisa Hotson (D 07) and husband Huw David welcomed Joseph Anthony Rhys David on January 24th 2020.

Chris Hotson (C 05) and partner Alex Vargas welcomed Sofia Lily de Vargas Hotson on February 19th 2020.

Many congratulations to the Hotson family.

It was good to hear from **Harry Williamson** (St A 55), a valued member of the OO Committee and generous benefactor to the School. Harry wrote the following (which I shall quote verbatim):

“You ask for material for the magazine. I can’t replicate the wonderful opportunity I had two years ago to replace the Chapel Cross but right now I have got a smaller

issue on the go which you may feel rates some space in the magazine.

I get the Old Master catalogues from a fabulous auction house in Vienna called Dorotheum. In a sale I noticed there is a painting entitled “The Temptation of Saint Anthony”, Lot 141. It was painted around 1550, mid 16th Century anyway, and I love the image.

You can see where this is going, I would love to see that picture (not the real thing!) either in the Chapel (of Saint Anthony) or maybe also in St A itself.

I have got a friend in Vienna who is trying to persuade Dorotheum to let me have a high resolution image which we can reproduce and if that fails, the School has probably got the equipment to pick up the image from my catalogue.

The idea is of course to be able to display that image in the Chapel.

It is early days but if you want to look at the image go on to Dorotheum.com click on today’s Old Master auction, then type Saint Anthony in the description box and Lot 141 should come up.

Thank you for this Harry, and do please let me know how it progresses.

Piers Ward (Lx 99) is enjoying his time in Lincolnshire having moved up there a couple of years ago with his wife Joanna and children Archie and Hector, although it is dangerously close to fellow OOs **James Nicholls**



(Lx 00) and **Tom Goodley** (G 99). Piers is now full-time at a PR agency, Samuelson Wylie Associates, and has just managed to get his old 1955 Jeep registered for the road for the first time in 20 years. It’s regularly wheeled out for Archie and Hector.

Richard Maddison (Sc 55) writes: My son, his wife, and three granddaughters all live in New York; and my daughter, her husband and two granddaughters who live near Oxford are all in lockdown and all well. I have phone calls with them every week.

Richard sent his usual Christmas letter and card to **John Atkin** (Sc 55), **John Carroll** (C 52), **Hamish Donaldson** (Ldr 54), **Roland Harries** (Lx 53), and **Ian Wainwright** (Ldr 54). His reminiscences in a birthday email to Hamish triggered many emails between them and Ian, including about their A-levels.

Richard had noticed that the A-Levels listed in *The Review 2019* page 9 hadn’t any STEM subjects. He remembered huge numbers of 1954 A-Level STEM passes. The archivist

sent him copies of archive pages, which he analysed – Mathematics 137 passes including distinctions, Physics 68, Applied Mechanics 66. Entering students in Removes, Lower and Upper VI, i.e. Years 11, 12, 13, boosted total passes. Richard's parents had found that in the *Public Schools Yearbook 1947* Oundle had the top percentage for A-Level Maths passes divided by total students over 13, so entered him for Oundle.

John Boon (L 01) e-mailed his news: I am pleased to hear that, notwithstanding the chaos that surrounds us, work for the OO Magazine continues. It is always nice to read it and see what everyone has been up to, as well as find out what has been happening at the school.

In terms of news, my wife, Abbie, and I welcomed our second child, Eliza Grace Boon, into the world on 25th February 2020. We have very much enjoyed getting to know her, and she is adored by both of us and her big brother, Zachary. Lockdown has not been without its challenges, but it has allowed us to spend more time together as a family (though we are very much looking forward to Zachary going back to nursery!). I continue to practise as a family solicitor, although, like much of the rest the country, I have been working from home since March.

David Ramply (Sc 62) says it has been a strange year but living on a farm social distancing has not been difficult. The lockdown has given him the impetus to write his memoirs which will be published in the autumn for friends and family only! It has been a most enjoyable exercise for him reminiscing about some very happy fun times and also some very sad times as well. **Guy Spragg** (Sc 88) writes: Our annual lunch in December 2019 was organised this year by **Justin Yeaman** (S 88) who selected a pub in Shoreditch thinking that a bunch of 50 year old public schoolboys would blend in with the internet hipsters. **Dom Brady** (Sc 87) arrived in his usual Rupert Bear ensemble and was joined by the usual suspects including **Tom Baldock** (S 88), **Paul Chatterton** (S 88), **Andrew Skinner** (S 88), **Tim Pasco** (LS 88),

Phil Atkins (C 88), **Chris Skelton** (Sc 88), **Alex Hendry** (Sc 88), **Jules McAlpine** (Lx 88), and **Simon Bingham** (S 88). Sadly **Matt Forde** (Sc 88) and **Mike Ragg** (S 88) were too busy to join, one working for the BBC, the other making wine in Burgundy. Equally sadly **Graham Testo** (St A 86) managed to find us and joined for the duration. Graham divides his time between Los Angeles and Newcastle. How this happened is a complete mystery to anyone who knows him. I would like to report that everyone was thriving in their business and personal lives, but conversations seemed to miss these two areas.

Janna Goodwille (K 95) writes: In the singing world, we're facing the fact that singing face-to-face is unlikely to become a reality before September (at the earliest), so - like everyone - adjust we do... Here are quick links to my latest online singing-and-connection offerings:
· I have a new group course called Reconnect & Sing - starting end June
I'm delighted to now be holding 1-1 Voice & Expression Sessions and my Sessions with Children are very joyful!

I've also made a start on recording vocals for my upcoming album There's a beautiful video at Harmony Live.

Please get in touch if I can support, or just to say hi. Sending hugs to you all.

Tom Allen (Sn 78) writes: My wife, Angie, and I have had a couple of lockdown virtual cocktail parties with **Mark Jackson** (Sn 78) and his wife, Christine, who live in Bristol. I recently became a grandfather as my daughter, who lives in Holland, gave birth to Adeline on 14th March. We haven't been able to see her yet but plan to when travel is permitted again.

Tim Pollard (Sc 93) continues to live a stone's throw from Oundle, and has enjoyed playing in various sports fixtures against the School common room in the past year - before lockdown put paid to all that. He's also encountered OOs including **Charlie Underwood**, **James Hicks** (both Sc 93) and **Will Davies** (Ldr 93) in what could just about pass for extreme village cricket matches,

when not working as digital editorial director at Bauer Media, the UK's biggest magazine publisher.

William Butler (L 08) and wife Wendy were delighted to welcome the birth of Callum William Butler on February 22 2020.

Arnab Datta (L 05) continues to work as a Chartered Accountant at a Big Four firm in London, specialising in the audits of technology and media companies. This has involved working with international firms and a trip to Turkey before the COVID-19 outbreak. He has enjoyed facilitating training courses and writing articles for ICAEW careers publications, as well as recently being involved in an interesting project assessing the impact of climate change upon companies.

As for my news, I was gearing up to be President of the Club in 2021 but as **Charles Miller's** (Ldr 76) tenure has been somewhat ruined due to the Coronavirus situation, he will serve another year as President. So in 2022 (51 years after leaving Oundle!), I shall take office and hope to do as good a job as he has done.

OOs I keep in touch with include **Peter Scaife** (B 71), **Robert Morton** (Sc 71), **Nigel Youngman** (Sc 71), **Jonathan Jones** (B 71) and of course my ex-colleague at Oundle, **Richard Owen** (Sc 70). Richard and I meet on the tennis courts in Bedford quite regularly. Unfortunately I need more back surgery so my exercise has been severely curtailed, but I am hoping to be back in action by June 2021. Whether I shall be able to maintain my appearances in the OO rugby during the Multi-Sports weekend remains to be seen. I think I must be the oldest OO to appear on the 2 Acre – the previous record holder being my father (D.J. **'Peter' Piper** Ldr 40) I am pleased to report that I won a few tennis games this year during the Multi-Sports weekend – probably due to my doubles partners. Other news is that my wife Tina retired as secretary to the Music School having done 22 years there. She is looking forward to more gardening!

My thanks to those who have provided news, and my best wishes to all East Midlands OOs. Stay safe and well!

East Yorks and Lincolnshire

Stephen Francis (L 80)

Goeff Mackrill (B 76) reports that this year was a 'bit kyboshed' by the Virus but he made the OO Over 60s' lunch in London early in March which was about the last social trip out before lockdown.

His specialist paint business has been open throughout and is now licensed to make skin sanitiser.

He continues to take every opportunity to catch a few waves near Scarborough and is continuing to restore a TR4 for racing although he says it's taking him forever!

One of the unexpected effects of the crisis is that he has a house full of large children again, but having the opportunity to see them has been one benefit of these times. He says the downside is the fridge always seems to be empty.

Charles Gillett (St A 79) continues to recover from his traumatic brain injury suffered two years ago at Spa Francorchamps, crashing his historic car in the Six Hours endurance race. He says, "It's a slow path, but I guess I'm getting there".

Brian Pettifer (S 54) is still working as a notary from home and taking full Covid-19 precautions and manages to play 18 holes of golf with **John Mollet** (G 51) most weeks. Plans for a trip to Columbia and Tahiti were cancelled but he is hopeful that his train trip from Cape Town to Dar es Salaam will go ahead. After four fabulous years as Head of Financial Operations of Laxton and Oundle Schools **Victoria Cropley** (N 01) left her position in October 2019, spending a few months living in London with her husband before moving out to their vineyard in the Chiltern Hills where she is now enjoying country life.

There are several threegenerational Lincolnshire OO families and **Peter Denby** (C 79) reports that he is still living in Lincoln and running the family haulage business. His father

Dick (C 53) is also in Lincoln and is still in regular touch with **Dick Marshall** (C 53). Peter's son **Charlie** (C 08) is married and living in New York where he earns a living as a digital marketer.

Michael Brown (Sc 51) reports from the Brown bunker in Quarrington that lockdown has limited his social contact but prior to lockdown he was able to enjoy a catch up with **John Francis** (D 48) at Sleaford Rugby Club at the annual Vice-Presidents luncheon. Michael's son **James Brown** (Sc 76) missed his annual reunion with **Nick Redmayne** (Sc 76) and **Tony Murley** (G 76) in the Tavern Bar at Lords where the tales get taller as the day goes on. His reflections are that the older he gets the better he was. He also bumped into **David Beamish** (Sc 77) at a mutual friend's 60th birthday weekend on the Isle of Isla where they both found the local malt more than acceptable. The biggest disappointment for the Brown family was the cancellation of **Robert's** (Sc 79) 60th birthday celebrations.

A Lincolnshire expat, **Robert Covell** (L 80) was locked down in southern Russia but has now moved back to Moscow running and developing a significant agricultural business.

Simon Grantham (B 71) continues to provide affordable student accommodation in Lincoln as well as farming. He continues to organise the unofficial OO field sports team during the shooting season with James Brown, **Ian Grant** (C 80) and David Beamish in attendance. Simon's brother **William** (B 75) is fit and well and farming in Lincs, unfortunately, their father **Geoffrey** (B 42) has recently passed away.

Nick Scott (Lx 95) continues running the family farms in Lincolnshire. Ten years has flown by, he says, and the eldest of his three children is down for starting at Oundle in September 2021. He lives



in the same village as **James Sardeson** (Lx 82) who farms next door. He is also working with **Stephen Francis** (C 80) in ensuring the nation has a regular supply of frozen peas. He is in a farm benchmarking group with **Matthew Mountain** (StA 96) so they talk regularly, although Matthew spends half the year in Australia and the other half on his farm in Great Hale. Despite that, a few pints are managed. **Tim Brooks** (Lx 95) has the heady responsibility for Nick's son's religious education. Nick finds it a little unsettling that it is a quarter of a century since he left Oundle so suggests that a reunion is due which he will gladly leave to his head of House, **Ed Reynolds** (Lx 95) to organise.

Peter Allen-Williams (N 66) got in just before the deadline to say that his brother **John Allen-Williams** (N 64), his wife and youngest son visited him for a month last September. Peter himself was two months into an eleven month road trip around Australia and had to return abruptly on 26th March to avoid being locked down in his sister's holiday flat in Western Australia.

Other OOs in Lincs I have crossed paths with who are fit and well include **Steven Padley** (B 79), **James Grant** (N 73) and **Toby Fowler** (S 19) the most recent leaver. The modern forms of electronic communication also allow me to remain in contact with **Dominic Reid** (B 80), who is facing some challenges in these strange times with the organisation of various ceremonial matters. Another OO who keeps

himself busy in the farming industry is **Duncan Worth** (S 83) who runs the family business as well as being a driving force on the local drainage board and is the current chairman of the Royal Agricultural Societies.

As for our three generational family my father **John Francis** (D 48) reached

the age of 90 in June. He is still fit and well, albeit a little deaf - conveniently at times - and much busier since sporting fixtures have been reinstated to Sky. **Amy Francis** (K 11) moved from CBRE, where she worked with several OOs, to work with another OO, **Richard Black** (S 03). She still

sees **Rupert Monroe** (G 09) on a more than regular basis.

As for me, it has been an extremely challenging year with all that mother nature has thrown at us but I can report that the quality of the peas this year is exceptional, if a little low in yield. So, get them while you can.

Ireland

Anna Syme (née Gaymer K 02)

Tim Simpson (C 81) had a busy year here in Ireland. Their family focus has been their older son, Ben, a Leaving Cert student, who has been navigating the uncertainty of exams, traditional foreign travel and a virtual school graduation. That is all complete now and he is looking forward to going to UCD in October hopefully, and doing Engineering like his father!

Tim went back to study - specifically a Diploma in Strategy & Innovation at the IMI and recently completed that, with graduation in late July.

Otherwise, he continues to adapt, manage the home working balance with effectively 4 grown ups in the house, and keeps as active as possible with tennis and a bit of running. He has actually done more volunteering than running at parkrun in the last year, but really enjoys both. Tim is hoping go to London in October and run the original Bushy Park Parkrun which is ironic as he lived across the road from it for his last 4 years in London.

Tim corresponds with **Andy Boucher** (Lx 84) via Facebook, as he is in Portland, Oregon and is fairly vocal regarding the current local challenges in the US!

Ben Siddle (St A 90) recently moved back to Limerick after two years in Malawi and is happy to be home. He is also happy to still be a grey civil servant (!) and is looking forward to switching responsibilities to climate change from July. Ben hopes to be able to use his new

fishing licence for the local Mulkear River over the summer months also. On a side note, Tim's brother-in-law makes Gin called 'Loch Measc' which he highly recommends, and it is available for mail order. It is floral, rounded, and very very good!

All is well with **Alistair Yarrow** (D 63) after a busy year. He is still active with the homoeopathic practice, although C19 forced him to close the clinic in Arklow and continue to work from home. This has resulted in a steep learning curve in skype etc for them. Alistair was introduced to homoeopathy at welly level...working with vets and farmers and he finds it all very interesting, so he hopes it can keep going. Living in the country means he can get out and about and Avondale is near by, so he runs around there to keep active.

Robert Henshall (LX 75) enjoyed his time in lockdown, spending long periods in his garden. He has been landscaping, developing a poly-tunnel and vegetable garden so was too busy to miss being afloat. At the time of communication he was looking forward to getting back on the water soon.

It is with great sadness that, having been unwell for several months, **Jock Workman** (D 53) passed away. His wife Barbara told me that his best memories of Oundle were his friends and time spent in the Workshops and Science labs, which stood him in good stead for his chosen profession. After School he studied Electrical Engineering at Queens Belfast and then joined the family firm of Hugh J



Scott's, where he worked his way up to become chief designer of Electric Motors; some of his patents are still in production worldwide today.

He represented the School at Shooting, the Inter Schools Sailing Cup and was an avid photographer of Oundle events, which continued throughout his life. A keen sailor, he mainly cruised the West Coast of Scotland, but sailed to the Faroes and St Kilda and in the Mediterranean. He also crossed the Atlantic in 1995 and raced Dragons.

Jock was a gregarious man with a zest for life and an inquiring mind. He was also a prolific reader - interested in everything scientific and global. He died on 17th April 2020 just before his 85th birthday and leaves Barbara, his wife of 57 years, children Sacha, Caroline, Guy and Kate and three grandchildren.

2020 has been an interesting one so far for my family, like so many. Unfortunately, we had to close The Stables - our Fitness & Wellbeing business for 3 months due to Covid 19, but we managed to continue in some form via online classes and events. We are delighted to be back up and running now and we are lucky in the fact that our unique setting allows us to run a lot of our classes

◀ and events outside in the fresh air. Fortunately, the farm kept ticking away throughout lockdown, as it was deemed an essential business. After another year of hard work, we are now busy labelling all our Christmas Trees ready for harvest starting in November. We supply the whoelsale

and retail markets throughout Ireland, UK and Eurpoe with high quality Christmas trees.

My family in Essex are all well too and although we missed some special family gatherings this year, I did manage to get together with my sisters **Rebecca Gaymer** (K 06) and

Katie Gaymer (K 04) at the start of the summer which was a huge relief. It was lovely to meet my new nephew too – Freddie Savage, who is the second child for my sister **Rebecca Gaymer** (K 06) and her husband Henry, born during lockdown in March.

London

Matthew Simmonds (St A 97)

Your correspondent **Matthew Simmonds** (St A 97) has had a fairly busy year catching up with OOs at the end of 2019, however as I'm sure is the theme throughout the magazine, this came to a rather abrupt end in March this year. Before that the annual Round Norfolk Relay took place and he caught up with **Andrew Coulthurst** (St A 97), **Guy Simmonds** (St A 95), **James Vickers** (C 97), **Jonathan Cope** (B 97), **Matthew Mountain** (St A 96), **Thurstan Guthrie-Brown** (St A 98) and **Matthew Unwin** (S 94). Despite the postponement of the OO Sports Lunch in April your correspondent did manage a reunion organised by **Tom Wansborough-Jones** (Sch 97) and **John Pennington** (N 97) where a number of OOs congregated including **Leo Barker** (S 97), **Alex Kemp** (S 97), **Joe Sharratt** (S 97), **Rick Muir** (Sch 97), **Chris Godfrey** (N 97), **Jake Sanders** (St A 97) and **Jonathan Cope** (B 97) among others.

Edmund Greaves (Sc 07) contacted me to let me know has embarked upon a new career, leaving journalism in January to become a media consultant for MRM, a financial communications consultancy. In January he also moved in with his girlfriend Ellyn Megicks, a pediatric nurse, who has worked valiantly on the NHS frontline during the coronavirus pandemic.

Harry Gibson (S 02) writes to pass on the good news that he was appointed as a consultant in obstetrics and gynaecology at the Whittington

Hospital in North London, where he specialises in maternal medicine.

Norman Shelley (Ldr 71) went to New York early in March 2020 to attend the birth of his Daughter's twin boys. Joining him alongside his wife and other daughter was son **John Shelley** (S 14) who arrived directly from Milan. With him came the dreaded Covid-19 and soon the entire household of eight people were afflicted. Norman was happy to report all made a good recovery though a somewhat difficult start in life for mother and premature twins.

Jason Gissing (Lx 84) continues to enjoy spending his time at home with Katinka and their four children. Ocado goes from strength to strength now that he has left! He remains in touch with **Oliver Pykett** (Sn 89), **Alex Baldock** (S 89) and **Jeremy Ng** (L 91) in the U.K. He also caught up with **Ben Gotto Smith** (Sn 89) who lives in Sydney and **Rupert Baird Murray** (Sc 90) in Ibiza.

Alex Davies (Ldr 05) volunteered for several months at NHS Nightingale in London as the St John Ambulance manager. He was joined by **Chris Monk** (Sc 04) who supported in several roles. The photograph below shows them just before they transported the first fully recovered patient out of the hospital.

Patrick Tatham (D 82) writes to report that the day before lockdown his business venture was featured on Dragons Den and he would encourage all OOs to take a look at his website: www.pliqobag.com and take a look at his innovatively



designed travel bags.

Jules Mountain (S 84) saw the New Year in, in Morzine, France with **Nigel Trafford** (S 85) **Philip Trafford** (S 87) & **Joe Trafford** (S 89). Jules has also regularly seen his brother **Richard Mountain** (S 82) in London and they have managed two cheeky ski trips to Morzine together prior to lock down but had to forgo the Easter ski jolly – hoping there will be a chance to go next year!

Henry Faulkner (G 53) writes to tell me he is now fully retired now, and is convalescing after a spell in hospital. We wish him well a full and speedy recovery.

Julian Sturdy-Morton (Sn 71) emailed me to say that he could remember the last time he had updated his correspondent but that he agreed that 2020 has been extraordinary and testing. However Julian has taken on two new careers in 18 months just when he should have retired after decades in the City. In 2018 he and his wife, Maria, launched A Bit of TLC, a virtual London club that regularly accounts for more than 10% of a West End audience. That stopped abruptly in March 2020 so they launched a not-for-profit online grocery with

► Alex Davies (Ldr 05) and Chris Monk (Sc 04) volunteering at NHS Nightingale in London. The photograph right shows them just before they transported the first fully recovered patient out of the hospital.

home deliveries, operated by 150 volunteers. For four months TLC during COVID supported 500 households with 12 tonnes of excellent food from wholesalers that had been destined for top restaurants. Julian felt it was the sort of thing that comes naturally from the breadth and community commitment that Oundle taught and still teaches. He describes it as having fun doing some good. He regularly sees **Hugh Carlisle** (Sn 55) playing croquet at The Hurlingham Club and is in close contact with **Benjamin Rhodes** (St A 70) who has earned an enviable reputation as a dealer in contemporary art.

Andrew Barraclough (N 84) and **Dominic** (N 84) & **Chris Barraclough** (N 86) report that their fathers **Mark** (N 53) and **David** (N 52) both passed away in 2019.

Charlotte Wiseman (K 00) writes to tell me that Following a long-standing career in fashion she has recently retrained in Applied positive organisational psychology and Mental Health First Aid. Charlotte now works as a consultant and trainer helping organisations to optimise engagement, boost staff satisfaction and enhance wellbeing through positive leadership and mental fitness in the workplace. She is working with organisations such as Accenture, Soho House, TSB, Innocent and Amazon.

John Story (B 65) writes from Barnes in London where he sees, and catches up with **Chris Reilly** (St A 65), from time to time. Chris is a near neighbour. Another near neighbour is **Charlie Hiscocks** (StA 80) who has come round for a chat in the garden (in accordance with government guidelines!) on a couple of occasions in the recent past. John has also been in touch with **Nick Chrimes** (Sc 69) and with **Jeremy Clark-Lowes** (B 65). Jeremy has recently moved from Sussex to near Tenbury Wells.



He is still active in the town planning world.

John was due to meet up with his brother, **Colin Story** (B 70) in early April. Colin lives in South Fremantle in Western Australia and the plan was to link up in Japan. However, we both came to the same conclusion in early March that with Coronavirus affecting much of the region, it was best to cancel our respective trips. This was just as well as John contracted Covid 19 on March 23rd and was in hospital for eight weeks, five of which were in intensive care. He is delighted to be back home, regaining strength and mobility. He says that he received marvellous treatment from the NHS and its medical staff. When not in the hands of the medics, John is fully engaged with a local charity, with the chairmanship of the Board of Governors of an independent senior boys' school in Surrey, and attending classes in watercolour painting and philosophy. Sport has had to take a back seat in recent times.

John also caught up with a number of contemporaries at the OO over 60s lunch at the RAF Club in early March. They included **John Craggs** (S 61), **Ben Leggate** (D 65), **Richard Matthews** (D 66), and **Bob Ellis** (D 65).

Richard Tett (B 87) reports another year has slipped by in the blink of an eye, but with a good number of OO encounters. With lock-

down, he has seen less of **Matthew Sargaion** (B 87) and **Gavin Allen** (B 87), but both seemed well when they met up a while ago. Shortly before Christmas, **James Ginns** (Sch 87) was over from Hong Kong which resulted in a most enjoyable impromptu drink with **Charles Hammond** (Sn 87) and **James Holland** (N 87). Richard has also enjoyed working with **Jeremy Richardson** (G 88) as the Four Seasons Health Care Group (where Jeremy is Chief Executive) has been working with Freshfields (where Richard is a partner). A rowing photo of the Oundle 1st VIII from 1987, featuring a somewhat younger Jeremy and Richard, was much enjoyed by several Board members before one of the Board meetings!

George Johnson (C 04) and his family relocated back to Hertfordshire from Jersey in July 2020. Last summer he organised a Ramblers cricket tour to Jersey which saw them lose all three games convincingly along with 14 dropped catches in typical Ramblers style. They did however drink the bar dry and have been invited back anytime! Philip Pedley was in attendance along with **Rick Legget** (St A 04), **Seb Goldsmith** (S 03), **Toby Saul** (C 2003), **Luke Canvin** (F 05), **Rupert Rowe** (G 05), **Tim Elborne** (St A 05), **James Davies** (F 03), **Will Chrimes** (Sch 04) and **Dan Potts** (C 02).

◀ **Charlotte Charlesworth (né Cubitt, K 09)** writes to report that she still teaches in Tower Hamlets, East London and lives with her husband Edward in St Albans. They had been due to marry in Norfolk in April but, with a ban on weddings imminent, they made a dash for the altar two weeks early. Two days later, lockdown came into force and they spent a wonderful couple of months 'on honeymoon' in Norfolk with Charlotte's parents and brother **Ed Cubitt (G 12)**! They regularly catch up with **James Cubitt (G 10)**, who lives with his fiancée El in Singapore, and can't wait for their wedding next summer.

Francis Goode (S 42) sent a report detailing life in Oundle during the war. He writes to report that eighty years ago, in the summer of 1940, Oundle School organized boy volunteers to help on local farms to replace the men who had joined the wartime army. Three boys, from the January 1938 intake to Sidney, volunteered: Walter Mills, Trevor Ramsey, and Francis Goode. Ramsey cycled to York (80 miles), joined Goode; together to Grantham (80 miles) and on to Oundle. All volunteers were accommodated in a dormitory in St. Anthony's. The boys were employed for 3 weeks on local farms to do such things as stooking wheat and barley.

On the last evening, Walter Mills was seen, in the village of Oundle, with a girl. Also that evening, somebody asked: "Where is Ramsey?" The reply: "out with a girl"; was overheard by a master the other side of a wall.

The parents of Mills and Ramsey each received a letter from the School to say that their son would be punished when they returned to school. Walter Mills was duly given "six of the best" by the Head Master, Bud Fisher, for having been seen walking with a girl during the holidays! Trevor Ramsey did

not like the idea, nor did his father; so, in effect, he was expelled. His Housemaster, B. V. Kingham, later referred to him as: "the boy who left with a cloud on his name". ("under a cloud" is the more usual phraseology, but BVK's words are remembered.)

Walter Mills was one of the 12,000 troops in the Arnhem disaster; better known as: "a bridge too far". 4,000 were killed, 6,000 were captured; but Mills, although wounded, was one of the 2,000 who escaped. Sadly, he was killed later in the war

Trevor Ramsey moved to France after his wife died, as his only daughter had married a Frenchman. Trevor and Francis were still remembering Oundle's extraordinary attitude to girls when talking on the phone shortly before Trevor's death on 22 January 1917.

Francis Goode was informed by the AMBASSADE DE FRANCE that the President of the Republic had appointed him to the rank of Chevalier in the Ordre national de la Legion d'Honneur. Francis received the medal last September, just in time for his visit to Arnhem with the Royal British Legion. The award was with reference to the Normandy landings and the Liberation of France during the Second World War.

Sir Michael Pickard (C 51) has sent in a Pickard family update to report that he and his two sons

William Pickard (Sanderson 1980) and **Ed Pickard (Grafton 1982)** are all in good heart – the family has now expanded to us having 12 grandchildren and having cancelled two holidays because of Covid all the family are assembling at their home in August.

Adam Grint (Lx 93) has had the pleasure of catching up with several 1993 OOs over the past year. He joined **Mark Waters (B 93)** who Chairs the Mensa London meet-up where **Oliver Pugh (B 93)** and **Donald Alcorn (Ldr 93)** are also regulars.

Donald Alcorn has been keeping himself trim with his insatiable appetite for a physical challenge alongside running his business building eco-homes. To highlight the impact of methane on the environment, not only from cattle but from humans too, he recently completed the challenge for an upcoming TV series of wearing a methane collection rucksack, (much like the bovine equivalent), whilst on a strict diet of 3 roast dinners a day for a week. He found he was able to power his house for a month! Incredible.

Oliver Pugh meanwhile has been riding the wave of the change in culinary culture during lockdown. After leaving Mr Kipling confectioners, he exchanged a lifetime



▶ From left to right: **Oliver Pugh (B 93)**, **Adam Grint (Lx 93)**, **Mark Waters (B 93)** and **Donald Alcorn (Ldr 93)**

► OO Hockey Team vs School XI –
March 2020

supply of Viennese Whirls to pursue his dreams of making the perfect chocolate finger. He now has nearly one million YouTube followers as he reinterprets old fashioned confectionary into new products such as his 'Custard Dodgers Avec Wasabi', and flogs them to Gen-Z hipsters. I'm told a pilot for a C4 series entitled 'Is That Your Finger In My Chocolate?' with Carol Vordermann is also also in production. Exciting times!

He also caught up with **Simon Clark** (S 93), over from Australia for a short period. Since the rise in the culture of working from home, he has seen an uptick in demand for his smart-enabled office products as people attempt to create an office environment in the home. To help people gain separation between work and home life, one of his most popular items has been the 'Elevator-Immitator'; an 8ftx3ft box delivered flat-packed, that resembles the interior of a lift. Complete with pinging sounds effects and a digital display. As you shuttle through the floors, your smart-enabled inflatable colleague asks you a series of mundane questions about your weekend.

Joe Hubback (Lx Sch 95) tells me that as a result of the pandemic he has nothing to report other than bumping into **Ben Barnes** (Sch 95) at a BBQ (post-lockdown!) after not seeing him for 25 years and having a great catch up.

Peter Kunzler (N 71) penned a very brief update to tell me that he is continuing his house building project on a Thames island. He hopes to finish it in the next couple of years!

Guy Beresford (B 81) reports another busy year of OO activities up until the OO Committee meeting in March, which was the last densely populated event he attended before lockdown. OO-related activity has often centred around golf. He attended the very sad but uplifting funeral of **William Hodson** (St A 80) in September, a friend not only



from Oundle but also from business school, where it was good see a strong OO contingent, including **Simon Yun-Farborough** (B 75), **Richard Newbould**, **Jonathan Douglas** (B 80), **Peter Ahm** (St A 80), **Jerry Sampson** (St A 80), **David Orr** (St A 80) and **Mike Docherty** (St A 80). Guy reports that business has been good and his head-hunting firm, Independent Search Partnership, continues to grow, now having 4 Partners.

2nd Lieutenant **Sebastian Tusa** (S 13) graduated from Durham University in June 2018, before starting at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst in May 2019, commissioning a year later in April 2020 amid the height of the coronavirus crisis. After some time spent running COVID-19 mobile testing units in London, Seb has been at the Infantry Battle School, Brecon for phase 2 training and is looking forward to starting life at the 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards this September. In November he is due to deploy to the Falkland Islands for three months with the Queen's Company, as part of the UK's ongoing military commitment to the islands.

Dom Wheeler (S 85) writes to tell his correspondent that he thoroughly enjoyed playing in the OOs v School hockey match this year. Sadly just before lock down so post match celebrations somewhat curtailed although memorable win for the OOs

and a few drinks in The Ship. He also reports that he is living in Strawberry Hill, working in entertainment brand licensing and remains in touch with **Dudley Moor Radford** (B 85), **James Riggs** (Sn 85), **Karl Volz** (Lx 85), **Adam Covell** (S 85) and **Phil Massey** (St A 85).

Philip De Sa (S 71) dropped me a note to say he is afraid he has nothing to report apart from being alive and well and overall unprecedented situation accepted, 'is enjoying a good lockdown', a seemingly strange sentiment that he has heard others claiming as well!

Alan Moore (C 62) is writing another book, following publication of his ecological thriller *Bitten* two years ago. The book in progress is a semi-autobiographical novel, which includes a section based on his time at Oundle. His distinction at the School was not for any academic or sporting ability, but for the fact that in the same term he was beaten, with a short run-up, by both the Head and Second Head of School and then two weeks later given six of the best by the Headman. Fortunately, on both occasions he had a wallet in his back pocket, which remained unnoticed by his chastisers, so the pain of the cane was minimal! Nowadays, when he is not tapping away at his keyboard, he is trying to keep pace with his five grandchildren or, correctly masked, helping his wife Amber with the shopping or falling asleep in front of ►

◀ the TV.

Ross Kemp (S 95) wrote to me providing a fantastic update on all the family and tells me that he still lives and works in London, and finds it somewhat hard to believe he's still working away for his first employer, the BBC. Ross meets up with **Billy Day** (S 95) and **Chris Goff** (S 95) fairly regularly, although lockdown has interfered with a few plans, in particular a small reunion also including **Piers Millett** (S 95) and **Roger Rande** (S 95).

A planned meet-up at a poetry reading at which **Ed Ragg** (S 95) would be reading from his new collection 'Exploring Rights' (Cinnamon Press) moved on-line but it was still great to see and hear him albeit on a screen. This format enabled the pleasant surprise of allowing Ross to re-connect with **Chris Yates** (S 95), who was also in the virtual audience from his home in Athens!

It's been a busy year indeed for **Alex Kemp** (S 97). His business, The Eye Place, commands much of his time as it continues to grow. Do mention you're an OO when you book your eye exam in London, Bakewell, Sheffield, Hull or Towcester. The last few are locations into which he's expanded in the last few years. In case that wasn't enough, Alex got married to Jess in 2019 and he also caught up with **Karis Abbas** (St. A 97), **Al Lai** (G 97), **Pete Byworth** (St A 97) and **Al Herd** (S 97). 2019 also saw the birth of Alex's second son Oscar, a younger brother for Oliver. Alex and his family live in Sheffield.

Despite **Mark Kemp** (S 99) living in Bristol and **Andy Kemp** (S 99) living in London, golf (amongst other things) provides a regular opportunity for them to catch up with one another. Lockdown has forced some of the meet-ups to be online, but that's also allowed **George Unwin** (S 99) and **Adam Bosman** (S 99) to join them. Along with a few cases of George's fabulous wines (Baythorne Wines) shipped in advance, the catch-up also included a guided (Zoom-powered) wine-tasting session.

Mark is a consultant orthopaedic

surgeon working in south Wales and says he's "saving the world, one knee at a time!" and Andy is a Senior Director at restructuring firm Alvarez and Marsal in London. Andy and wife Rekha welcomed their daughter Coco Elizabeth into the world last year.

Rachel Kemp (W 07) took up a school-teaching role at the beginning of the last academic year at Victoria College in Jersey. Despite the challenges posed in the role, in the months that have followed she has become highly skilled in paddle boarding and is very much enjoying the Channel Islands life. Rachel has recently caught up (virtually) with **Libby Tunbridge** (K 07), **Faye Walters** (K 07), **Jo Thomson** (K 07) and **Ben Wyse** (S 07).

After an eclectic few years roaming London as a private tutor, while volunteering for legal charities such as Liberty, Reprieve and the Bar Pro Bono Unit, **Oliver Jackson** (Ldr 12) was called to the Bar at Middle Temple and completed pupillage at Monckton Chambers. He is spending the next year as the Judicial Assistant to Lord Burrows at the Supreme Court.

Pat Dobson (Ldr 06) writes to let me know he and **Emily** (K 06) are due to have a baby in September of this year and boy or girl he hopes they will be gracing 2 Acre in the not too distant future. In the meantime they are riding out the lockdown between Islington and Essex. Pat is also disappointed to report that he had to postpone **Ed Bury's** (Ldr 06) stag do in Ibiza until 2021. Likewise Ed had to postpone his wedding in Bordeaux by a year.

Dan Jenkins (Ldr 97) is still regularly in touch with **Tom Playford** (B 97) and very occasionally **Andrew Bain** (LS 97) and **Andrew Foster** (B 97) and **Rick Muir** (Sch 97) and been trying to arrange a meet up with **Jon Cope** (B 97) for ages!

Christopher Morgan (B 51) has been living in Barnes, South-West London for the last 40 years, with his wife Pamela. After undergoing a series of mergers as a London partner in what is now PwC, he has had a variety of non-executive and charitable directorships. He retired

10 years ago as chairman of a diverse optical group, which included the company which pioneered the use of the intra-ocular lens, used to restore sight in hundreds of millions of operations throughout the world.

Although never having progressed beyond being house captain of rowing and afterwards gaining an oar in the Lady Margaret 5th May Boat in 1957, he took up rowing in his 50's and still shares ownership of a double scull and a quad kept near Barnes Bridge.

He has been involved with the local Barnes Music Society for many years and is now relieved to have handed on the chairmanship. As a winner of the Hepburn music prize at Oundle (he says this was only because a violinist named Tomalin couldn't be awarded this for a second time!), he has continued to have regular piano lessons, though at present these have to be conducted through Facetime.

Both he and Pamela have travelled widely in the Middle East and for the last 20 years have been regular visitors to Egypt. Working with a local partner, and using craftsmen from local villages, they have built two large domed villas on the West Bank of the River Nile at Luxor. These provide glorious opportunities to visit the Kings Valley and other antiquities in this land of the Pharoos. One villa not only faces the famous Old Winter Palace and Luxor temple, but also the well-appointed Luxor Rowing Club.

Cameron Hunt (S 91) reports that he is still in the commodities industry and has returned to London after a number of years in Singapore. He has enjoyed the full cycle of seasons since returning, but is missing the regular cycle touring trips into Malaysia and Indonesia. His brother **William Luttrell-Hunt** (S 95) is dividing his time between Oxfordshire, the SW and commuting into London, while youngest brother **Rod Hunt** (S 01) has recently seen his family size increase while remodelling his new house in Cheshire. **Edward Hunt** (S 58) is enjoying battling the golf courses of NW England, and maintaining an edge, or perhaps a slice, over his sons. They are all

► Seated left to right - Blackburn, Gray, Hodgson, Harrison, Jeremy Burgess (all C 72)

looking forward to restarting their regular lunches in London.

Simon Hinshelwood (St A 81) is sheltering from the virus in Hong Kong where, until recently, things have been pretty safe on that front. Politics a different matter and not to be discussed. Like everybody else his travel has been severely curtailed and he has gone from flying about every 3 weeks to only 2 trips this year so far. One to Sydney in early February to see his son Campbell and one to London in June to see his mother, brother **Nigel** (St A 82) and his other two sons, Will and Euan. When social distancing rules allowed, he has enjoyed a few days out sailing with **Jonathon Zeal** (St A 84) in Hong Kong.

Andrew Worth (Sc 87) reports that he moved out of London in August last year to Sussex which (with a 9 and 7 year old) was good timing for lockdown. He still keeps in regular contact with **Andrew Chappell** (S 87).

Jeremy Burgess (C 72) wrote me a short note to say he had found the old photo above, believed to be the 1st eleven hockey team from 1971.

James Leadbeater (Sn 93) writes that the The Sanderson 1993 cohort had a COVID inspired Zoom get together on 2 May 2020: **James Leabeater, Joe Goyder, Joe Henry, Nigel Kirk, Oliver Quarmby, Alex Smith, Colin McInnes, George Jeffreys, Harry Shelley, Xavier McDonald and Fuad Abdullah** (all SN 93) spent a few hours catching up from their various homes (from north to south: Northumberland, Yorkshire, Oxfordshire, London, Belgium, Marseilles, Kuala Lumpur and Brisbane). George's dressing gown was excused by the fact it was 6am in Queensland. They plan to meet in person when possible, though who knows then that will be.

Kate Mason (L 06) returned from Doha last year to take up a job as a presenter for Sky Sports. She's



also recently started hosting the Football Ramble - the world's biggest independent football podcast - which would certainly welcome new OO listeners.

James Holmes-Siedle (C 80) has had an interesting 2019/20. In September he became Lead Rowing Coach (Voluntary) for the Putney Town Rowing Club's Masters Women's Squad. He discovered that **Laura Peck** (N 00) was a member of his squad. An emphasis on pushing hard produced some impressive early results; a 3rd and 2nd place in the Vet4s head of the river and then a win in Quintin Head. This looked like it was going to be a good season, but then racing was completely curtailed by 6 weeks of dreadful weather and then lockdown. Moving coaching from water, to land, to Zoom was a strange affair, but has led to strong increases in fitness, and a strengthened squad. Now back on the river at last and things are feeling a bit more normal, though we are all still in small boats.

Work has been similarly busy and James has been fortunate enough to have clients who are delivering two new London neighbourhoods; King's Cross Central and Brent Cross South. It seemed like only a couple of days and large teams were working remotely, with the design

and planning of large commercial and residential buildings taking place across the internet. Strangely this has led to some good efficiencies and many of these new practices will probably make their way into projects in the future!

Richard Wilson (N 66), **Strahan Wilson** (Lx 93), **Chris Wilson** (Lx 95) and **Nick Wilson** (Lx 99) attended the wedding of **James Wilson** (Lx 01) to Georgie Muir-Mackenzie on Friday 31st July in Aldeburgh, Suffolk. The wedding was a great success, despite the need for social distancing.

Your correspondent's brother, **Guy Simmonds** (St A 95) and his family made their move out of town over the summer, exchanging Battersea for village life in Buckinghamshire. As luck would have it the annual OO Vets rugby game in Oundle was able to go ahead just a couple of weeks before lockdown, which may have been the last live sport many were able to play/watch. Always leave them wanting (quite a lot) more.... His first few steps toward normality were getting out on the golf course with Messrs **Ben Barnes** (Sc 95) and **Wilson** (Lx 95).

Peter Haselden tells me he has little to report except that he met up with **Dom Parker, Ben Cocke, Andy** ►

◀ **Jay** late last year, up in London. **David Kunzer** failed to make it (all G 85 except **Andy Jay** as he left after 5th form... and bizarrely none of us remembered that!). Peter reports a fantastic evening and struggles to recall the end of it...

Benjamin Lane (B 06) reports that he and his wife Daniella are expecting their first child in September, and are very excited to start this new adventure. Ben has also recently set up Acumen Academy UK, a charitable organisation focused on finding and empowering leaders who are tackling the UK's toughest social and environmental issues.



Georgina McGrath (née Lewis, D 03) marrying Patrick McGrath in Ireland 9 March 2019

MARRIAGES

James East (B 05) married Sophie Watt on 25 July 2020.

Will East (Sn 02) married Miriam Orcutt on 18 July 2020 at St Bartholomew the Great, London.

Charlotte Cubitt (K 09) married Edward Charlesworth on 21 March 2020

Georgina Lewis (D 03) married Patrick McGrath on 9 March 2019 in Ireland

Alex Kemp (S 97) married Jess Wintour on Saturday 28 September 2019

James Wilson (Lx 01) married Georgie Muir-Mackenzie on Friday 31 July 2020 in Aldeburgh, Suffolk

Victoria Cropley (N 01) married Duncan Thomson on 18th May 2019 in Sutterton, Lincolnshire.

BIRTHS

Harry Gibson (S 02) and his wife Hannah, a son, Laurie Andrew, was born on 18 August 2019

Edward Dyson (B 05) and his wife Constance, a son, Edward Pelham Henry, born on 30 December 2019, a brother for Frank and Finetta and a godson for **James East** (B 05)

Lucy McLaren (née Tusting, Sn 06) and her husband Angus, a son, Kit, born on 26 September 2019, a brother for Rose **Andrew Mackay** (G 04) and his wife, Caron, a son, Angus Joseph Ruairi, on

1 October 2019

Caroline Chamberlain (née Holroyde Sn 05) and her husband Andrew, a son, Ferdinand George Alexander, born on 29 January 2020

William Chapman (Sch 95) and his wife Georgina (née Le Grice), a son, Ralph Valentine, on 1 September 2019

Alex Kemp (S 97) and his wife Jess, a son, Oscar Edward Kemp, on 10 June 2019

Andrew Kemp (S 99) and his wife Rekha, a daughter, Coco Elizabeth Kemp, on 19 July 2019

Daniel Jenkins (Ldr 97) and his wife Emma, a daughter, Anwen Nansi, on 23 June 2020

James Leabeater (Sn 93) and his wife Melissa, a son, Joe, brother to Max, born 11 July 2019

North East

By **Charlie Hault** (Sc 85)

Once again, the wires are white hot trawling our glorious region for OO news. It's been trickier with Lockdown, though Northumberland was the UK's Staycation County of the Year – glorious in May/June! All

those gad-about young OOs stayed home. **Thomas Dodd** (S) was doing post-grad at Oxford, which mainly involved clay pigeon shooting, when he caught Covid and was whisked back North. He's been hanging out with brother **Nikolai**, studying for



retakes. **Ollie Mills** had year-off plans curtailed on Matten Golf Course though **George Gibson** managed to get away to New Zealand. And several Oundelians slipped into OO status from the confines of their perches in the county via the misery of Zoom, instead of the fanfare of the Leavers' Ball.

Georgina 'Gee' Elliott (D 05) was quick off the blocks with news of her charity in Uganda, Eco Brix, which is now recycling plastic to make visors for frontline covid workers, providing 2500 jobs in marginalised communities. Back in London with time on her hands and a collection of African fabrics, she's also started a business making facemasks: vibrant, sustainable and machine washable at www.namatovu.com – with every set, a visor is donated to Uganda's largest hospital.

Thea Scott (née **Oliver** D 04) had plans to travel to take her Old Uppinghamian husband to East Africa this year, but that's been curtailed by Lockdown. Displaying Oundelian tenacity and resolute attitude, she's now a director of Footprints Consulting, which helps tech companies understand their marketing functions. She's spoken to both **Will Chrimes** (Sch 04) and **Bridie Muir** (nee Layden L 04) about businesses they plan to launch. Thea reports that D04 are regulars on her WhatsApp and she's been zooming both is **Emily Frenay** (née **Wainright Lee** K 04) and **Jon Beeby** (StA 04) who lives in St Louis, MO. Jon was over in Edinburgh for his sister's engagement and asked Thea to read at his wedding in 2021 in the US – they expect to catch others from the 2004 vintage.

From words to music, **Rupert Bradbury** (Sch 89) reports that he's taken a new role with Roland Europe to open 'stores within stores' to sell their their electronic instruments. The travel may give him respite from juggling his five kids at home in Hexham.

A couple of fields away, **Ralph Charlton** (S 90) is also putting the miles in (and putting on the pounds?), as Interim Comms Chief for Just Eat. His daughters are going through

nearby Sedbergh rather than his alma mater and we shared a Dad Dance-off in front of them at Christmas to, basically, everyone's horror. Ralph recently stayed with **Phil Alcock** (C 90) in Bath as part of a post Covid road trip, returning via Oundle to see Deputy Head Alistair Sherwin and his NE-born wife Camilla for a socially distanced beer on Bramston Close.

If OOs aren't visiting to drop their family at Uni in Toon, the classic winter staycation can involve firearms. **James Rainbow** (Sn 85) caught up with my old room-mate, **Mark Dixon** (Sn 85), in January when he brought friends including **Dominic Parker** (G 85) for a few days shooting in the Borders. Dixon was back with son Fred for a cycling tour of Northumberland, Borders, Cumbria and County Durham. They'll be passing through **Emily Trevelyan's** (19) manor as she prepares for Edinburgh Uni.

I would point any OO cyclists to a Tour de Yorkshire. One of the most prolific Facebookers in my inbox is **Ed Caudwell** (C 84). He has mellowed over the years from frantic 50s parties to home baking, wild swimming and bbq steak photos that go alongside money-shots of gorgeous Dales manor houses that he sells as a pukka estate agent. It's all documented in technicolour, often with a glinting sundowner of Cider from **Sean McFetrich's** (B 84) cider service, Fetch the Drinks, from Bournemouth.

To mention my own vintage, I've seen my usual clutch of OOs cider maker **Rory Souter** (G 86) and stage star **Bill Ward** (G 84), X-rated publisher **James Robertson** (Lx 85) and TV's Vera producer **Will Nicholson**. It was amazing to sail Holy Island with **Chris Stephenson** (Sn 85) who came visiting our glorious coast for, you guessed it, a family staycation – 32 years after we set off from there on our year off to sail to St Tropez with crew that included **Sean Brunton, Gary Jones, Richard Emmott, Steve Kunzer**. Chris is beating McKinsey at their own game as a strategy consultant in Nigeria with his business partner, Nigeria's answer to Mark Zuckerberg... now we know where

all those phishing emails come from!?

Charlie Bennett (N 84) recently ventured 'doon sooth' to a dinner hosted by **Adam Hartley** in Oxford for a cohort of New House 84 with **Jimmy Burton, Jerry Epton, Harry Clayton** and **Robin Hollands** – to raise a glass for **Bob Brandler**, who sadly passed away this year. Photos were shared of an illicit 18th birthday party for Bob in a hostelry near Oundle.

David Simpson-Brass is also crossing borders after three years up North and says 'saludos'. To avoid the staycation hoards (and what he calls 'daft Brexit'), he's returned to Spain where his daughter has taken nationality. He's been helping **Angus Murphy** (Ldr 13) find a position in Iberia after his stint with KPMG in London. David says playing golf every morning at Club de Golf Escorpion will keep him fit. He's given up my memberships of Bamburgh and Seahouses GC, but will be back in Autumn to see his mother, aged 98, at Bamburgh.

While up the coast, brothers **John** and **Simon Bevan** are both doing their best to pop Northumberland's staycation bubble so they can have peace and quiet at their retirement spot on Holy Island. It's famed as the first place Christianity came to England and for the causeway road that floods on a rising tide – but the tourism boom means it now receives 880,000 visitors per year. The Bevans have served long on the Parish Council, but withhold budget to renovate the loos every year!

Speaking of nonagenarians, it's sad to report that **Tubby Booth** declared at 93, and is off to the fairways in the sky. I will miss his frequent emails of terrible jokes and pictures, though feel lucky to have heard his tales of Oundle privations during WW2.

Nick Rowell (C 63) isn't slouching in his retirement on the golf greens. He's on the river. Late news from the year didn't make my previous letter and I promised to make amends. Nick was at Henley Royal Regatta with a gathering of some members of the OSBC 1963 VIII. Whilst meandering down the towpath to OO Drinks at Butler's Field, he was ►

◀ accosted by a tall American for the second time in about 25 years in the same spot - **Steve Brown** (D 63), who rowed in the 63 crew whilst on an ESU exchange scholarship from Tabor Academy, MA. Also in attendance was **Nigel Shepherd** (G 63), cox **Chris Gill** (G 64) and Nick's former study mate, **Andrew Anderson** (C 62) from the OSBC 1962 VIII. There was talk of 1962 OSBC cox **Robin Greenfield** (C 62), who went to Newcastle University to read Chemical Engineering – never to be seen since. It still happens in The Toon's Golden Triangle!? Nick's sons **Robin Rowell** (C 98) and **Sandy Rowell** (C 04) are extending their Army careers, Regular and Reserve respectively. He says: 'They continue to fall out of aircraft occasionally, rather than my preference for remaining in control'.

The observant of my readers may have spotted that I'm loosely running down the region in chronological order. The middle rankers have nowhere near the chat that I got from Tubby Booth. **Ian Gilthorpe** admits he's moving 'towards the senior end of your correspondents'. He's no slouch, mind, building up Newcastle's best corporate legal firm in the past few years and restoring the fortunes of South Northumberland Cricket Club. He kindly wrote to me to say he had nothing to report. Likewise, **Iain Stewart-Fergusson** (Lx 58) who wrote with mild embarrassment: 'I feel guilty over the cumulative lack of input over the years from my end: Imagination/ inspiration deficit'.

Roger Dargue wrote that his news is

very modest and gave full authority to ignore it if other OOs offer something sensational. He started to explain his golf and settled life with wife Helen in Newcastle. Then he went into detail about his Boys Own story of visit his son in Australia just as the pandemic hit and having the most complicated adventure to get back to Geordieland with airlifts and switching planes while all around were losing their heads. Very tense.

Charles Escritt takes the prize for news and fully turned on the taps of info. His guilt is that he's hardly engaged since Oundle with only one visit since 1968 – an OO rugby match. He reports that he trained terribly hard only to get thwacked on the backside mid-match by Frank Spragg's son with the loud exhortation 'get a bloody move on, you lazy bugger!'

Charles has moved North to be near daughter Louise but bemoans his son Oliver works in London for 'Leaders in Sport' – earning more in a year than Charles has over his career. Time spent in the area, after years in Czech Republic, have led him to discover his grandfather was ordained by the Bishop of Durham in 1911 and used to bring boys up to summer camp near his current home.

Charles reports that brother **Anthony Escritt** (StA 60), who was Head of Geography at Harrow until retirement, combined this with a love of the outdoors. He recalls both brothers went to Iceland in 1966 to study glacial stone polygons but they arrived to see the volcano on Surtsey erupting.

Christopher Porter talks me through

is advanced engineering business Spincraft, which made parts for the aviation industry before meltdown in lockdown. However, prior turbulence had already led them to diversify and Spincraft has closed a good year providing parts for spacecraft, the nuclear industry and to enable MRI scanners to function. But, mostly, Christopher talks about fishing. Another sideline for the local staycation sector. Last September fishing on the Tyne at Farnley he saw **Ken Harrison** on excellent form. Ken had a bit of a health scare in March but is now fit and thriving. He is 90 this year. He tells me his grand-daughter **Juliet Rothera** is working in New York but came back to work from home in the UK during lockdown. **Nick Rothera** is involved in Drone safety in the aviation sector. **David** and **Christopher Rothera** continue to work providing greenhouses to solve food production issues in the Middle East.

Andrew Bywater demonstrated his fish landing skills last September with Christopher on the Tyne –landing an 18lb salmon. He continues as a GP near Worcester. Retirement is beckoning. Cousin **Daniel Porter** was due to fish the Tyne in March but stayed in Beijing where he has been living for the last 3 years working both in the hospital and at the University. Brother **Matthew Porter** is Vicar at St Michael le Belfry in York and currently taking a sabbatical for his Doctorate. Another brother, **James Porter**, after a period as a Vicar in Cromer, has moved to be Assistant Curate at St Heliers, Jersey. He is loving it!

Scotland

Guy Bainbridge (Sn 78)

The Edinburgh OO drinks at The New Club were a casualty of lockdown, but nevertheless it has been good to hear from several OOs across the country and across the age range, so, starting with the oldest:

David Stevenson (N 51) is still an Honorary Fellow in Population Health

Sciences at Edinburgh University. He recently marked 56 postgraduate assignments on "Global Health" - which he found educational for himself. He was due to play bagpipes for dancing at 20 ceilidhs at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe but COVID put paid to that and any other ceilidhs





Sanderson House
1955 Rugby team

as their dancing is almost as far from social distancing as it is possible to get.

Archie Burdon-Cooper (C 55) splits his time between Scotland and North Yorkshire. He appears to be very active reporting that in the last year he has made several trips to Cambridge, a music tour to Finland, fishing on the Tamar in Devon, and is writing a book on his experiences as a national serviceman after leaving Oundle, including the Suez landings. He keeps in touch with his many OO relatives including his cousin **Richard Burdon-Cooper** (C 58) living in Radlett who had to postpone his 80th party this year, cousin **Alick Nicholson** (C 62) living in Cumbria and nephew **Andrew Pope** (N 87) who lives nearby and still works for Network Rail. He also speaks to **Iain Smith** (C 56) who lives in Vernon, British Columbia but they both thought even before COVID that transatlantic travel may now be beyond them.

David Stembridge (Snc 56) reported that he had little news but instead sent me a wonderful photo of the Sanderson House 1955 Rugby XV he captained striding out arm-in-arm to the inter-house final. He also remembers study cooking with flames leaping to the ceiling – all well before anyone had heard of Health & Safety.

Neil Cameron (C 58) just made my deadline for reporting with the explanation that up in the north west they don't have a word for anything as urgent as 'manana', and the lockdown has meant that date

and time have ceased to have any meaning at all. He went on to say it has been a blissfully quiet and peaceful place to spend the lockdown months, although the boats are starting to fill up the bay once more, and the caravans and campers are about again, but he has not seen any OOs this year.

Roger White (Sc 60) claims to have missed the deadline for news last year as he was recovering from Ceòlas, South Uist Summer School. He had attended Ioan Thomas' memorial in Oundle Parish Church with his youngest brother **Simon White** (S 68) which he thought was a splendid tribute and he enjoyed catching up with **Roger Page** (S 71) and others. In 2019 he also took his wood-fired 'Fossil-Free' Land-Rover to Blair Atholl Horse Trials.

Adrian Grant (N 65) tells me his latest project - broadly an overview of the history of Fife over the period 75AD-1130AD - has spawned several papers which OOs with an interest in the matter can see at <https://independent.academia.edu/AdrianGrant1>.

Charles Coulson (Lx 67) reports the sad news that his brother **Francis Archer Coulson** (Lx 65) died on 15 March 2020, his birthday, overwhelmed by a multitude of ailments from a life well lived and enjoyed. COVID isolation meant he was seen on his way only by close family and friends but at some time in the future it is hoped to be able to celebrate him. He leaves behind his

wife Annie and two children, Sophie and Hugh and their families. Charles continues to enjoy retirement doing all the things that he was unable to do when flying all over the place and never being home at the right time. He has found grandchildren a great substitute for missed events.

Mike Edge (C 68) writes that surprisingly, at his time in life, he took on a new inspection role in 2018 working for a large national engineering manufacturer which has taken him all over the country from Shetland to Ireland to the Isle of Wight. Usually at weekends he has been flying back to Aberdeen so in his travels he has met up with a number of OOs, all former shooting acquaintances, **Richard Beeby** (Lx 68), **David Habershon** (Ld 68), **Jonathan Dodd** (Sn 69), and more locally to himself **Charlie Coulson** (Lx 67). Following a period of furlough he has now accepted VR and will in future be working on a contract basis that given the new risk climate will allow him to work mainly closer to home but for a range of companies.

Hamish Wallace (G 74) reports that life in North Berwick during lockdown continues at a very slow pace and he has usually had a six carriage train to himself whilst commuting. He modestly omitted to say he is a Professor of Paediatric Oncology at the University of Edinburgh and Royal Hospital for Sick Children. Hamish missed Henley Royal Regatta as it was cancelled but hopes to see friends and OOs there next year. He has developed a passion for bridge and plays at The Marmion club with Tony Lewin, who many will remember as a teacher at Oundle. Hamish's marginally younger brother **Malcom Wallace** (G 76) is settled and successful in Sydney Australia. Hamish sees his great friend **Timothy Cowan** (Ldr 76) quite often. Timothy lives in Tooting and in France and has a successful medical insurance business.

Michael Beamish (Sc 75) had his second hip replaced last August; he puts the damage down to floundering around the squash court when overweight all those years ago. The good news is he is now completely



From L to R: Max Barraclough, Sam Cates, Nick Ohly, Jimmy Goddard, James Morriss, Charles Ashby

◀ pain free and easily able to play 36 holes of golf again. He has eventually managed to meet up with **Duncan Monroe** (G 75) for golf as he now lives in Fife. The Borders distillery is going from strength to strength and they have recently launched their Puffing Billy steam vodka which has won many accolades as the perfect vodka for vodka martinis and Michael encourages all OOs to try it!

Duncan Monroe (G 75) retired in September 2019 having spent the last three years of his working life in Kirkcaldy. He now lives in the lovely Elie, Fife, plays golf poorly and cycles slowly. He has enrolled on a part-time degree course at St Andrews University and reports that at his current rate of progress he should graduate in 2028.

James Dracup (Sc 76) is currently working in Perth for Macnaughton Holdings Ltd., manufacturers and wholesalers of Highland wear (www.houseofedgar.com) and also furnishing fabrics (www.islemill.com). The company is one of Scotland's oldest family companies having been founded in 1873. James lives outside of Perth, and enjoys playing golf at Blairgowrie golf club.

Paul Hilton (B 78) is well and living on the Isle of Mull where he has been on and off for 25 years. Lockdown has had its benefits on

Mull; just residents and no tourists!

Christopher Slater (St A 86) reports that, whilst 2020 has not been a very exciting year for achievements and experiences, he can say he is surviving and so is his business. This is a small miracle as his business, supplying retailers with Scottish gifts and Harris Tweed products, relies heavily on the tourist sector. Obviously things are very reduced when compared to previous years but orders are coming in from all over the world and each week he is seeing a steady improvement. His four children have all been home near Gifford in East Lothian for lockdown, either with redundancy, difficulty completing a degree or not knowing if a new university course will start. In the last year the only OO Chris has seen is his brother **Mark Slater** (St A 87), who continues to run his fund management business and lives between London and the Cotswolds with his wife and three boys.

Mike Thorpe (Lx 87) no longer lives in Scotland. Since returning from the Middle East 18 months ago he has now been relocated to Brussels for 12 months to change and run an office. He spends as much time as possible with his father (**John Thorpe** Lx 56) and brother (**Roger Thorpe** Lx 92) and also his children aged 21 and 19. Even at the age of 80, John remains

extremely active with the Worshipful Company of Farmers, advising and running the local cricket club and keeping track of his grandchildren. Roger continues his success as an entrepreneur and investor in York where he is well known for running a portfolio of businesses.

Nick Turberville (St A 93) met up with **Maurits Van Wijk** (Ldr 93) for a long overdue round of golf at Merchants of Edinburgh within a week of the courses reopening in Scotland post lockdown. They calculated that the last time they played together was as 2nd pair for the golf team at school and promised that they won't wait 27 years for their next round! The round complied with social distancing guidelines as Nick's enduring aggressive fade made sure they were more than 20 metres apart from tee to green.

Nick Ohly (Lx 96) reports that he is very settled in Glasgow, replacing hips and knees. In September 2019 a group of Lx 96 (see photo) cycled from Newcastle to Glasgow over 2.5 days in support of Nick's family fund Project GO and Duchenne UK, raising more than £10,000. Hugely impressive was the effort by **Jimmy Goddard** who managed the entire distance on his handbike, and they were accompanied by **Sam Cates, James Morriss, Charles Ashby** and **Max Barraclough**. Nick never thought he'd be sharing a dormitory again with these individuals, but wasn't surprised how after 23 years neither the banter nor personal hygiene had changed. Nick's sisters **Geraldine Grob** (née Ohly, K 98) and **Christina Gibbins** (née Ohly, K 02) are based in Malmesbury and Witney - both admirably juggling careers whilst raising young families.

Jamie Goodhart (Ldr 01) reports that he and his wife, Andrea, had their first child Elspeth on 30th April, and all are fit and well. However, their house is unliveable as its redevelopment is delayed by COVID so they are living with his in-laws.

Mark Robson (G 12) married Bronte Johnston on 14 December 2019. In typical fashion, Cumbria provided its full repertoire of weather conditions. This however had little

impact on what was a fantastic day. Many OOs were in attendance at the service and later at Lowther Castle for some extensive celebrations. Earlier in the year, a group consisting of a number of OOs led Mark on a successful skirmish of Cork, Ireland in advance of marriage. All were accounted for and made it home safely. Mark and Bronte now reside in Edinburgh's New Town and would love to nab a drink with visiting OOs.

Emily Gladstone (W 13) graduated from the University of St. Andrews in 2017, and is now working as an economist for the Department for International Trade. Covid-19 means she has had to spend the last few months working from home with triplet brother, **James Gladstone** (C 13) who has been doing a lot of cycling and is active on Strava.

Jonathan Britton (Ldr 00) moved as a pub manager with JD Wetherspoon from York to Fort William three weeks before lockdown began. He had been holidaying in the area for 10 years and has a sister living at Ballachulish and decided it was the place he wanted to live. He spent lockdown furloughed but walked over 350km exploring Glen Nevis and the Manmore mountains whilst also providing shopping and medication runs for people who could not go out. Thankfully his pub has been very busy in the two weeks since they were allowed to reopen.

Finally my family's news. Pre-COVID I had settled into a balanced life of non-executive roles, holidays, sports, hobbies and time at home which was varied, interesting and busy. Now all work is from home and skiing and holidays to Peru/Galapagos and France have been cancelled, but some of those retirement jobs have started to be done. Last August I was in a Wakeford party of 24 for the Oban Ball of which 15 were OOs (see photo) and, as often, bumped into **Alastair Irvine** (Sc 81) and his son **Angus Irvine** (Sc 12) who was at Sandhurst. **Dave Bevin** (Sn 79), **Robert Yeo** (Sn 78) and I managed to have our annual evening out before COVID arrived. We regularly see the **McCool Duncan** family – **Connie** (Sn 13) is using her



Charlie Bainbridge's 21st. All St A 17. Left to right, back row first: Tim Yang, Charlie Bainbridge, Hugo Winnett, Fergus Anderson, Toshi Oshima, Lochie Payne, Harry Stansfeld, AJ Hayes-Powell, John Philips, Charlie Groves

writing skills in the film industry, **Angus** (G 14) is working for Rafa in Spitalfield including leading early morning cycling tours, and **Rory** (B 17) who is enjoying Oxford Brookes. In February my son **Charlie Bainbridge** (St A 17) squeezed his 21st party in a month before lockdown. All but three of his St A year group were there (see photo) and they led a somewhat out of tune but very loud rendition of "Jerusalem" at 4am – I don't think the alcohol made their singing any better or worse than it had been for five years in chapel. **Zac Berrill and Angus Wight** (both St A 17) only failed to make it on the day due to Storm Dennis; Zac made it as far as the M74 where he aquaplanned into the central reservation, writing off his mother's car but thankfully emerging unhurt. Other OOs attending included Charlie's sister

Emily, my brother **James Bainbridge** (Sn 82), **Emma Wakeford** (D 16), **Olly Parker** (B 17) and **Coco Brown** (W 17). Charlie is still at Leeds University, enjoying hockey and social life more than engineering lectures. **Emily Bainbridge** (K 14) graduated from Leeds University in paediatric nursing last September and started work in neo-natal intensive care at Chelsea & Westminster so has been on the front line including treating premature babies who have coronavirus. She has seen a lot of **Bella Ellis** (Sn 14) who is teaching music in London and they play netball together; she also sees **Alex Hodgson**, **Freddie Martin** and **Emma Morse** (all K 14), **Charlotte Cundall** (D 14), **Fleur Arkell** (L 14), **Charlie Bowkett** and **Tom Daniels** (both G 14), **Oli Wood** (C 14), and **David Bolle-Jones** (St A 14) regularly. ▶



Fifteen OOs ready for the Oban Ball

South West

Anthony Parsons (S 65)

I hope that all Southwest OOs and their families are negotiating this unprecedented period in good health and without suffering undue hardship. In spite (perhaps because) of the forced inactivity, I am delighted to have received many contributions and the good news is that, amongst them, only a handful have reported anyone contracting Covid 19, and those have all recovered well. We are fortunate to be in a region that has not been badly affected. However, it was less fortunate that the virus arrived just too soon and necessitated the cancellation of our Southwest lunch at Taunton racecourse in March. We will reschedule when protocols permit.

This isn't the first year that several contributors have expressed a desire and enthusiasm to supplement the biennial lunch with smaller, more ad hoc, localized gatherings. GDPR prevents us circulating everyone's details, but I am keen to help and have ordered this year's report by county to facilitate this. Anyone wishing for specific contact details can request this from me or Jane Fenton in the O.O. office.

I hope you will forgive me for starting this year's report with the news that my father, **Derek Parsons** (S 38), probably the oldest O.O., died peacefully in April. Not before we were able to celebrate his 100th birthday with a party for 40 family and close friends when he was on great form and the event leaves us with many cherished memories. He spent over 30 happy years retired in Dorset so I will continue the report with Dorset based OOs.

An early respondent was **Stephen Allen** (N 78) who says lockdown life in Poole and working from home has not been a hardship, but he sympathises with the many starting out in their careers for whom the pandemic has led to a faltering start. With Coronavirus looming in February, Stephen joined **Michael**

Mattinson's (N 78) landmark birthday at the famed Soho watering hole "The French House", where he met up with contemporary Novarians **Charles Major** (N 79), still dentisting in Cornwall and an early Covid survivor having been hospitalised soon after the party, **John Higham** (N 79), illustrating, designing, lecturing and living in Sussex, and **Andrew Myers** (N 79) influential in the software world in Kew, S.W. London.

Another Poole resident **David McFetrich** (B 56) is a welcome contributor after some years of silence! Whilst he considers staying alive to be an achievement, it is interesting to hear that his father sent him to Oundle thinking his son had the makings of an engineer. This proved correct as, having been given a book on bridges for his 15th birthday, and making full use of the opportunities available at Oundle, David concluded that civil engineering was the career for him. Still active in retirement, the 2nd edition of his book *An Encyclopedia of British Bridges* was published last September and, during lockdown, he has put a lot of time into a sister volume about world bridges, due for publication in 2022. He hopes that these books may inspire some of today's pupils to pursue similar challenging and worthwhile opportunities. David also made his way to Oundle to play squash at the Multisports weekend and enjoyed the social gathering in The Ship and meeting the O.O. President, a fellow civil engineer! The McFetrich clan is thriving, son **Sean McFetrich** (B 84) has a business selling craft cider, 'Fetch the Drinks' which is growing successfully and **James McFetrich** (B 92), an A & E consultant in Northumberland, has been on the Covid 19 frontline.

Philip Bambury (Sc 61) writes to say that all is well in his corner of



Dorset apart from the cancellation of many holidays and trips. In common with most of us, he has been uplifted by occasional distanced meetings with family and friends, but deprived of contact with his wonderfully huggable grandchildren. Elder son **Peter Bambury** (LS 92), in Sweden, is heavily involved with rugby development and has joined the Swedish RFU board. He is also taking his golf seriously as chairman of the Sigtuna Hackers Amateur Golf and Guzzling Enthusiasts Recreation Society (Sh...rs)!! Younger son **Bernie Bambury** (N 93) apparently makes wonderful bread as well as managing his business crafting bespoke pieces in wood and has regular contact with **Stuart Kidd** (LS 93) who has been shouldering personal difficulties this year. Philip was impacted by the inevitable postponement of the 60 year School House reunion masterminded by **Richard Bailey** (Sc 60) and **Nigel Napier-Andrews** (Sc 59) and hopes it may be rearranged for next year. A positive spinoff from Coronavirus restrictions is that the energetic team of **John Richardson** (StA 61) and his wife Susi had some spare time enabling Susi to produce the definitive set of papers to equip those who have to deal with affairs after one's death. Philip commends her carpediemplan.co.uk wholeheartedly. He concludes by recounting a chance encounter almost two years ago at a service centre on the M20 when he parked close to a smart car with "Oundle School" printed on the back. As he was about to drive off an elegant

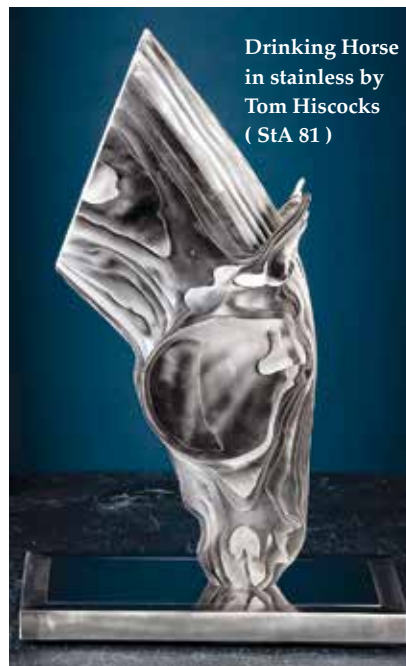
couple approached the car so Philip introduced himself. He, of the couple, exclaimed "you are an old Oundelian" and turned towards his wife and said "Please meet the Head"! A delightful chat with Sarah Kerr-Dineen ensued and Philip appreciated receiving a generous note from her later.

We haven't heard from **Rodney Dodd** (Sn 75) for some time but he says he and the family are still here. He is busy on a renovation project, the architect of which is **Richard Hall** (StA 86) who is doing a great job. Rodney's children have kept him occupied too: youngest son Ollie is purchasing his first house, daughter Steph is starting her dog grooming business near Blandford Forum and eldest son Alex moved in for 12 weeks during lockdown with his wife Emma and their daughter Isla. Rodney enjoyed the opportunity to get to know his granddaughter. His elder brother **Shane Dodd** (Sn 74), having recovered from a recent illness, helped on the renovation project and his children **Henry Dodd** (B 07) and **Georgie Dodd** (D 07) are progressing well in their careers. Rodney's eldest brother **Jonathan Dodd** (Sn 71) runs his boat maintenance business in spite of attempts to retire and his children William and Emily are forging out into the world. Rodney reports contact with **Mark Stone** (Sn 75) and **Roland Franklin** (S 44) who, at 95, can claim with his wife Nina an immediate family of 65 including great great grand-daughters!

Another we haven't heard from for some time is **Simon Mennell** (StA 69) who I think has a base in Wimborne but says he is still living in Ecuador in semi-retirement and assisting in the opening of bilateral trade opportunities between UK and Ecuador. **Jonathan Mennell** (G 72) is still in Italy and, as a prominent Art Consultant, would be happy to hear from anyone interested in his expertise and knowledge of historical art.

Progressing into Wiltshire, first to report was our sculptor **Tom Hiscocks** (StA 81) who showed a selection of his work at the O.O.

exhibition in the Yarrow Gallery in spring 2019. He has found the period since March 2020 most engaging as, with time to spend and a lack of galleries to visit, people have gone online and discovered what he does. His studio is based in Pewsey and he would welcome anyone interested in buying or commissioning a sculpture for home or garden to visit by arrangement. Tom enjoyed meeting some old friends at the London dinner in November including **Adam Dixon-Smith** (Sc 80), **Chris Knight**



Drinking Horse
in stainless by
Tom Hiscocks
(StA 81)



Rearing Horse in acrylic
by Tom Hiscocks (StA 81)

(N 79), **Simon Bullock** (Ldr 80) and **Jim Keyes** (B 81).

Chris Higman (N 62) continues to enjoy 'retirement' in Chippenham, running his energy consultancy at a reduced tempo, whilst regularly meeting his daughter **Victoria Davies** (nee Higman) (D 96) and her children who live in Bristol.

Paul Horrell (S 51) has had some heart trouble but says the prescribed pills have done the trick and he is again playing two rounds of golf a week, walking the course. He claims to still have his mental faculties but leaves it to others to judge! Paul reports a less adventurous year because of coronavirus but, more importantly, no virus related problems. Some travel plans were cancelled but the annual two weeks in Madeira were enjoyed in superb weather before lockdown where he met up again with **Rod Alexander** (Sc 61). His brother **Martin Horrell** (S 53) still lives near Exeter but his usual continental motoring trips had to be put on hold.

Although Oundle became co-educational 30 years ago we still do not have many women OOs in the Southwest so it is particularly good to hear from Wiltshire based **Nina Weatherill** (née Alton) (W 97) who has just completed a three year diploma in nutritional therapy at the Institute for Optimum Nutrition in London. This included the challenge

◀ of home schooling Ralph,⁷ and Laurie,⁵ during finals! Nina has been enjoying a brief respite building vegetable beds with husband Charlie before starting her own nutritional therapy business. She regularly sees **Tom Wilson** (B 97) and his family who live nearby.

Ian Orr (StA 76), still working in crisis management and as a consultant with NATO, updates us on his children. **Sophie Orr** (D 11) works in London for an insurance company and expects to be back in town shortly, **William Orr** (StA 13) has continued work with a renewable energy company despite Covid 19, and **Katie Orr** (D 16) has successfully completed her geography degree at Durham University but sadly was deprived of graduation ceremonies and parties.

Moving to the Gloucestershire contingent, first to respond was regular contributor **Rod Alexander** (Sc 61) whose pre-pandemic activities included the annual Amps wine festival in November, with hospitality courtesy of the parents **Nathan Bland** (LS 94) and **Edward Bland** (LS 97), Madeira in January with **Paull Horrell** (S 51) and the over 60s lunch at the RAF Club, sitting between **Gavin Choice** (N 61) and **Iain Laird** (Lx 62). Rod was disappointed that the pandemic put paid to the Southwest lunch at the Taunton Racecourse, **Richard Bailey's** (Sc 60) reunion of the School House septuagenarians and also a possible **Nigel Sudborough** (N 65) inspired history trip to Berlin. On a positive note he was looking forward to the first village cricket match on July 12th on the square he has been carefully tending to in hope for the last three months.

Last year **William Reddaway** (Lx 66) reported his move into a house east of Stroud with space for three generations, need for decoration and some building works, plus a long neglected 0.75 acre garden. Much work later, and the removal of over thirty trees, they now have more gardening than they will ever keep up with but a sense of gratitude that they were 'one household' in time for lockdown. He also reports that

three OO siblings survived lockdown without drama.

Jonathan Duckworth (Sc 75) has passed an interesting lockdown with daughter gaining her history degree from Edinburgh remotely and son moving house in Exeter. His role as Mayor of Nailsworth required a reaction to the pandemic and a recovery plan after lockdown, a challenge due to the hit taken by retailing and shopping centres. Jonathan continues with his interest in photography and saw **Chris Rudolph** (Sn 75) again late last year at their cottage near Ullapool where he enjoyed showing Chris and Gale the highlights of the N.W. Highlands.

Last year **Hugh Brass** (D 67) moved to the Southwest after 38 years in Switzerland and has been so involved with builders (taking longer and costing more than anticipated) that they have had little time for anything else. He joined Gloucester Rowing Club but admits to being too busy to go near a boat as yet. OOs seen have been limited to family, son **Jeremy Brass** (B 09) who had to postpone his May wedding to Beth until next year, daughter **Olivia Brass** (D 03) who is still living in Hamburg and **Naomi Brass** (D 06). A trip to the Outer Hebrides was Covid-postponed and several skiing and summer trips to the Alps were cancelled. Nevertheless Hugh still looks forward to meeting local OOs at the to be rearranged Southwest lunch.

Peter Dickenson (Ldr 59) has just moved from Tewkesbury to Denmead, Hants to be in the same village as their middle daughter but, with downsizing and 60 boxes to unpack, says never again! The move means he left behind **Dru Bentley** (Sch 59) and **Rodney Bellamy** (Ldr 58) who he used to see at the Birmingham dinner in earlier years, and also **Andrew Crowther** (Ldr 60). The move to Hampshire puts him into Peter Owen's (Lx 63) Weald Region where I am sure he will be welcomed.

There are four contributors from the Bristol area who I am bringing together to save myself from identifying if they are Somerset or Gloucestershire!

A new arrival is **Martin Lean** (B 70) who lives between Bristol, where he has just moved into a harbourside house, and Southwest France where he lived and worked permanently for many years. Their son works in Paris and daughter is about to start her final year at Leeds University having completed an internship also in Paris. Martin regularly sees Poole-based **James Pride** (B 70) and intends to visit Oundle when practicable having regrettably missed a few reunions. He wishes health and happiness to any OOs reading this.

Although based in Bristol, **Adrian Phillips** (StA 82) locked down in Dubai to deal with the double whammy of Covid and collapsing global energy prices. His son **John Phillips** (StA 17) is studying Chemistry at Edinburgh but became more interested in DJ-ing from home in Bristol during the lockdown. Brother **Justin Phillips** (StA 83) is fighting Coronavirus as Medical Director at Musgrove Park Hospital in Taunton whilst his daughter **Charlotte Phillips** (W 18) is about to go to Newcastle to study finance and accounting after time in Paris studying French. Son **Edward Phillips** (Sc 13) is crowdfunding his private equity fund in London looking for vaccines and his other son **Harry Phillips** (B 14), a year away from graduating in medicine from Manchester, has been doing his bit on the Covid wards.

William Wykes (Lx 71) retired to Bristol from his consultant ophthalmologist post in Glasgow in 2017 and was happily enjoying retirement until the onset of Covid 19. However, in spite of volunteering, the NHS has not yet required his services. Fortunately major works to the house were completed two weeks before lockdown enabling he and Rachel to leave a rented flat and lockdown with sanity. Prior to this they enjoyed a trip to Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia in 2019 but Covid forced the cancellation of further trips abroad and a planned talk to Bristol University 4th year medical students. On a brighter note William reports that his guitar lessons continued apace – on Zoom.

Oliver Simmonds (L 03)

lives nearer Bath than Bristol and works with BMT, an engineering consultancy, and has been looking at national infrastructure requirements for the future electrification of vehicles, as well as coping with two young children. He is also having to learn about old building techniques during major renovation work on their early Victorian property.

Moving South to my patch, Somerset, Hilary and I haven't travelled too far owing to the needs of aged parents, but we did enjoy a stay in the Peak District in September in a remarkable old converted sawmill. In November I enjoyed an inaugural lunch with my near neighbours **John Allwood** (Ldr 70), **Nigel Engert** (G 67) and **Richard Habershon** (Ldr 71), an event we will repeat. A highlight in early February was my father's 100th birthday party. In March I was in Oundle and had a preview tour of the not yet finished, but highly impressive, new Sports Centre. This was followed by the over 60s lunch at the RAF Club, a highly recommended event for those of the required vintage and a last hurrah before lockdown. Our household has been increased by the presence of our younger daughter Sarah, who works for a bank in London, working from home for four months but about to be called back with mixed feelings. Our elder daughter Alice, a physiotherapist, has been on the front line at the Royal Berks Hospital in Reading. Otherwise I have missed cricket and meeting likeminded O.O.'s at Lord's.

A regular contributor is **Nigel Engert** (G 67) who still chairs his local Patient Participation Group, representing patients' interests and being the 'critical friend' of the GP practice. He expresses satisfaction that they successfully negotiated the challenges in the last few months. Nigel also continues as a Director of a not-for-profit Sports & Leisure company which faced major challenges during the lockdown period, and reports keeping in touch with **Richard Peaver** (G 67) and **George Marshall** (G 67), the latter having caught Covid but recovered.

John Allwood (Ldr 70) tells us that his son **Jonathan Allwood** (Sn 00) and his wife had a baby boy in February, whom they only saw a couple of times before lockdown, but had just enjoyed a July weekend with the family in Cornwall. John also enjoyed his regular Doncaster Knights vs. Bedford Blues lunch in November when he was joined by **Al Gordon** (C 69), **Dave Gunner** (Sc 69), **Chris Nicholls** (G 69), **Bob Harrap** (B 68) and **Martin Jenkins** (SC 70). A narrow win for Doncaster was followed by a good thrashing at the return fixture! John reports bumping into **Richard Habershon** (Ldr 71) in Bruton and looks forward to a repeat of the lunch that he, Richard, Nigel Engert and I enjoyed last November.

Judge Smith (Sn 66) relocated to Somerset in 2014 and makes his welcome first contribution saying that he continues to write and record rock music albums, although performances with his latest combo 'Towers Open Fire' have been curtailed by the lockdown. He presents radio shows on the local internet station Glastonburyradio432 and labours joyfully in his garden under the direction of his girlfriend. He is in regular touch with **Nick Lucas** (Sc 65), Rev. **Maxwell Hutchinson** (D 65) and **David Mitchell** (Ldr 66).

John Clark (N 67) should have retired 11 years ago, but is enjoying being in charge of Economic Development for South Somerset District Council, Hon treasurer for Bath Opera, and Secretary of South Somerset Community Energy, which he founded in 2015. Brother **Robin Clark** (N 62), who lives near Bath, is well and still graces the tennis court if not the ski slopes.

The final Somerset contributor is **Stewart Hamilton** (G 55) who was prevented by Covid 19 from celebrating his 60th wedding anniversary in July with his wife Susan and 3 children, their spouses and 8 grandchildren. Stewart speaks regularly with Susan's brother **Sir John Lilleyman** (B 64) and also **John Crabbe** (G 55), **Duncan Dormer** (G 55) and **Sir John Waters** (G 54) and cherishes these friendships from

70 years ago.

Progressing west brings us to the Devonians and first to respond was another reliable contributor **Piers Pepperell** (Lx 90) who has busied himself converting a lovely barn which he will move into in August, whilst still working throughout the lockdown as a farm vet helping farmers keep the nation supplied with milk and meat. He found time for Zoom catch ups with **Jimmy Greenwood** (S 90) from Kenya, **Jeremy Paxman** (Ldr 9 0) from Kent, **Aydon Yeaman** (S 90) from London, **Dom Turner** (S 90) and **Jeremy Dutta** (G 90) who are all well and looking forward to their next walking trek across the UK and hopefully Nepal. His brother **Justin Pepperell** (Lx 84) has managed to cycle round the Scottish Coast, build a pizza oven and also cope on the front line of the Covid outbreak as a respiratory medicine consultant in Taunton along with his wife who is a local GP. He meets regularly with Piers to either lose at squash or win at golf. Elder brother **Giles Pepperell** (Lx 82) is still in North Wales 'selling all sorts of rubbish on the internet' and travelling the country supporting the Maritime Volunteer Service.

David Stogdale (D 68) is still enjoying retired life near Salcombe and continues to meet the informal 'Study 5' group for an annual lunch in London. He would welcome any OOs visiting Salcombe to contact him and I am delighted to assist, as to meet GDPR protocols, anyone wishing to do so should contact either myself or Jane Fenton and we will give David's details.

Richard Keith (D 57) is surviving lockdown with little news as his wife is in the vulnerable category. In the meantime three of his grandchildren have been keeping his Hallberg Rassy 31 yacht 'Grebe' in full sail cruising round the North of Scotland.

Last but far from least we come to Cornwall - without risking too many complaints, arguably the most delightful county in our region. **Quentin Haigh** (N 73), a regular contributor to these columns and steam railway stalwart, attended the London dinner in November, the over 60s lunch in March and intended ►

◀ to include the Southwest lunch until it was cancelled. His non-Oundle activities included a visit to the Great Electric Train show in Milton Keynes in October but he was disappointed about the cancellation of the Helston & Falmouth Model Railway Club meetings, the famous Flora Day in Helston and the English Haydn Festival in Bridgenorth which he regularly attends.

Brian Whitaker (Sn 58) reports from St. Mawes, the upcoming haven for OOs and recently named Best Value British Seaside resort by 'Which', where life is gradually returning to normal enabling them to see their OO family. Four grandchildren include **Gregory Whitaker** (Sc 10), **Bryony Whitaker** (Sn 12), now a Lieutenant in the

Veterinary Army, and **Rory Whitaker** (Sc 14) who continues his accountancy career with KPMG in the City. Their father **Tim Whitaker** (Sn 83) has been enjoying some sailing while **Stan Billington** (F 14), having graduated from Oxford, is considering a switch to bio-chemistry. **Andrew Whitaker** (Sn 84) and **Robert Whitaker** (Sn 90) are well and visit regularly. Brian has spoken to **Mike Whittall** (Ldr 55) who has been housebound for three months in a nearby village and **Dick Orchard** (Sn 58) who is in good spirits and back out on the golf course.

I believe **Ian James** (G 70) is a St. Mawes resident but tells us he locked down for three months in Wiltshire with family. His motorsport days are

over but he has enjoyed outings in his recently recommissioned BMW 2002. Now 94 and living on his own for the past 14 years is Ian's 94 year old father **Dick James** (G 44), the sole survivor of the WW2 Reconnaissance Group, whose exploits are now recorded on DVD at the Tank Museum in Bovington.

Lockdown hasn't caused any difficulties for **Neil Campbell** (N 71) other than bringing forward his final withdrawal from work but he has missed the camaraderie and competition of golf.

Once again my thanks to all for contributing; we must hope that any new Covid spikes do not become second waves and that we can all meet again soon.

Wales

Peter Moore (Ldr 88)

Whilst 2019-2020 started as normal, when lockdown arrived, OOs in Wales had to adapt to the slightly differing, and often harsher, lockdown rules applied by the Senedd. However, that did not stop us achieving things in either our work or personal lives.

Speaking personally, I had a fascinating end to 2019 and start to 2020 with work taking me to the USA and China - to investigate damage to merchant vessels - and the South of France for super-yachts. The super-yachts are definitely cleaner vessels, but the below stairs areas are just as small as on merchant vessels. A very senior member of the legal profession had to go for a lie-down after trying to squeeze into a small space for an inspection. Hopefully that will give him more respect in future for the engineering experts.

I closed out my free time before lockdown with two weeks in the sun in South Africa on another engineering project, escaping just a few days before flights ceased. Luckily this job has continued throughout lockdown, solely document-based, and has kept

me very busy. The company I work for has been involved in checking the efficacy of COVID-19 testing, but as an engineer and metallurgist I leave that to the biologists.

Even so, I still found time to volunteer as an NHS responder, have become a (part time) home-schooler, and managed to break a bone in my foot whilst taking part in a treasure hunt over Zoom!

Performing functions directly more useful to the current crisis, **Chris Williams** (Ldr 88) was very busy with the public health response to COVID-19 in his Public Health Wales role in surveillance and epidemiology. As part of this, he led the Wales site for the Oxford Vaccine Group trial recruiting participants to be vaccinated in a randomised controlled trial. He told me it was a good experience to go back to some clinical work. We hope for a positive result.

Staying with the medical theme, **Dr Alexander Holder** (L 06) who works at Swansea University, tells me that during the height of the crisis the university put a great deal of effort into refocusing on COVID research



and manufacture of PPE. He helped a team that made 3D printed face masks and found travelling around a locked-down city and university a surreal experience. Swansea University's School of Engineering also began to manufacture hand sanitiser (a remarkably large amount), and started research on UV sterilisation of ambulances, as well as other projects.

For anyone interested there is a press release for the face shields at: <https://www.swansea.ac.uk/press-office/news-events/news/2020/06/face-shields-designed-by-university-team-get-ce-mark-for-safety-for-nhs-to-use.php>

Whilst not his area he tells me that Swansea University's medical school also did a great deal, the final year medical students joined the NHS early and medical supplies were given to the

local hospitals. "...truly the response by colleagues as well as students here has been extraordinary" he says.

I received a brief bulletin from our Honorary OO in West Wales, **Robert Briggs**: "We much enjoyed the OO Over 60's lunch, and followed it immediately by a six day trip to Neustadt an der Weinstrasse, just beating lockdown. Thereafter we gardened and painted most of the exterior of the house. The Pembrokeshire Coast Path may have been out of bounds but Jenny and I found our favourite beach near St Davids largely deserted most days and in the extended lovely weather explored, on foot, lanes, paths and features we'd never seen before in 30+ years here. Having the crowds back here now seems rather odd. A pity we've had to miss a Rhine/Danube cruise, but we've been lucky out here on the fringes."

Back in Cardiff, **Abi Carter** (K 01) informed me that she has kept her company going throughout lockdown which (she says) is impressive considering the state of the criminal justice system.

As co-chair of the Welsh board of *Remembering Srebrenica*, she commemorated the 25th anniversary of the Srebrenica genocide. Instead of a planned event at the Senedd, they created a collaboration between Cardiff Ardwyn Singers (a choir Abi sings in) and the opera chorus of the Sarajevo National Theatre in Bosnia - a lockdown remembrance performance of 'White Flower', composed by a survivor of the Siege of Sarajevo that started the Bosnian war. It involved nearly 140 volunteers from both countries, including 116 musicians all performing on one screen. Outreach has been global and reactions have been overwhelmingly lovely to receive.

Here's a link to the video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2LSuRJspr1I>
Abi was also on ITV news: <https://www.itv.com/news/wales/2020-07-07/welsh-choir-marks-25-years-since-genocide-in-bosnia-with-beautiful-song>

Tim McVey (Ldr 73) provided his usual update for both himself and his daughter, **Hannah McVey** (Sn 04). On January 2nd Hannah

produced a son, Bryn William. He has become a delight. Tim and his wife left for Argentina, the Antarctic, South Georgia, Tristan da Cunha and St Helena on March 12th. However, as soon as they arrived, President Fernandez issued a decree stating all foreign visitors should have 14 days quarantine. They managed an afternoon in the beautiful Recoleta Cemetery and the surrounding area before being confined to an Air B&B. Luckily local friends provided tremendous support and on March 15th they joined hundreds of British COVID-19 refugees retreating home via Madrid.

Since then they have been enjoying the strict Welsh lockdown, making silly films for grandchildren via WhatsApp, maintaining the garden and putting order into 60 years of films and photographs. Having been to Tim's house I can only imagine the scale of work that simple statement implies.

Last year, Tim became Chair of the Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust and this period has been an enormous challenge. Due to the skill of a small management team they have survived lockdown strong and intact, and now need to work out what the "new normal" will look like. The Trust were due to open the new Dyfi Wildlife Centre in April but this has been put off until March 1st next year. Meanwhile their Osprey nest has received great interest as live-streaming has let people watch them return, breed, lay, hatch and fledge: <https://www.dyfiospreyproject.com/live-streaming>. The ospreys are magnificent.

Hannah bought a wide-beam boat last year, and their expanded family has enjoyed the time together, watching Bryn grow. Her employer, The Country Trust, has been heavily involved in the Agriculture Bill that has been going through parliament. The Trust is heavily involved with education so there are considerable challenges due to the disappearance of funding from school visits.

David Jackman (S 79) reports: my wife Andrea and I are still living near Abergavenny, just within the boundary of the Brecon Beacons National Park. Handing over the reins

this year as Chairman of the local Environmental Group after five years of woodland management, charcoal-making, traditional craft courses and lobbying the Welsh Government to take litter prevention more seriously... the latter without much success, I'm afraid.

Our five children are all now in their 20s and 30s and (to our surprise) all living and working relatively close, and we now have two grandchildren, who keep us very busy. I "pre-tired" about five years ago and now just do a bit of gardening and property management for various locals - keeps me fit and working outdoors in this beautiful countryside. In 2019 we finally closed the doors on our Bed and Breakfast - a great stop-gap between professional working life and retirement; I'd recommend it to anyone who's had enough of the rat-race and wants to escape to the country.

Our life here is close to self-sufficiency, with Andrea growing most of our food and us both trying very hard to minimise our negative impact on nature. Lockdown has actually been a good experience for us because we've seen more people start to respect the quiet beauty of the natural environment around us. Let's hope it continues.

Paul Eadie (Sn 61) is also lucky to live in a beautiful part of the world and has been enjoying lockdown in the lovely hills of Oswestry. The timing of lockdown was quite fortuitous as his wife had a hip replacement on 16th March, enabling them to stay home and recuperate with beautiful views. On the 5 June they quietly celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary. Paul tells me that it has been hard only seeing family online until recently, a position I wholeheartedly agree with. Paul is a Governor at a primary school in London, so Zoom has made it easier to attend meetings. He feels the same about doctors surgery visits, which must be a more economic NHS model for the future.

Jim Hindmarsh (Ldr 61) tells me that during lockdown he enjoyed both abstract and concrete activities, the concrete simply mixing several tons of it and laying a similar weight

◀ of concrete blocks, and the abstract trying to prove an attractive conjecture about the location of the zeros of polynomials coming from Mellin transforms of Legendre polynomials. He wonders if an OO with a mathematical brain 50 years younger than his would like to help.... He also told me that if I used that news I must be truly desperate.

Steven Thomas (G 69) told me that he has an absence of news, but instead sent me a photo of his friend **Richard Beeby** (L 67) who should be recognised as the de facto founder of the Troubleshooters (OO Rifle Club) in 1969, and whose two sons (and some nephews) have been pupils at Oundle until recently. Richard, a great all-round supporter of the school, was photographed at Steven's wedding in August 2018 at Fonmon Castle.

Richard Baxter (L 61) was precise in responding to my email by stating it had been 135 days since he last went shopping. Both he and his wife are in the high risk category and have been diligent in following government advice. Luckily, the 135 day count was not generated from chalk marks on the wall of their small cell, as they are lucky to have a 1½ acre garden which needs their constant attention. As a result, whilst they have always grown their own vegetables, this year they have an even more impressive array.

Richard Morris (Ldr 54) has had to scratch his head when reflecting on what news he might generate. The COVID-19 lockdown really was difficult for him and his wife who, between them, had six hospital appointments cancelled, including the final fitting of his most recent

artificial leg - number 24! After his wife's bad fall, Richard had to perform as a one legged carer; however, they soon discovered that his care skills were somewhat short of what was needed and they had to give in and employ a carer. All in all, it leads him to conclude 'You never know what is around the next corner.'

Badgering away at the small, but high quality, pool of Welsh OOs over my years as a correspondent, I am always pleased to hear from someone who writes in using the words "I haven't sent in any news before, but here goes...". This year that person was **Mike Polson** (G 72) who, after the normal disclaimer that he never thought anybody would be very interested, gave me a good summary of his current condition: "I live just outside Narberth in beautiful Pembrokeshire in an old farm house that we acquired as a derelict shell back in 1990. I retired last summer after 30+ years working in the field of medical electronics. I know it is a cliché, but since then I have never been so busy with projects around the house; battling to keep the lovely 2 ½ acre garden that my late wife created from reverting to jungle; maintaining my classic car; photography; refreshing my meagre guitar skills; cataloguing a trunk full of old photographs inherited from my parents which has morphed into a full blown genealogy research project and still finding time to do a little consulting.

I am lucky that Covid-19 has not had a huge impact on my life other than being unable to see my four grandchildren - who I absolutely adore - for months. Who knew being



a Grandad could be so much fun? Mike pointed out that he would have felt completely isolated from them if not for technology - thank goodness for Facetime, Zoom, Houseparty and Skype.

Steve Fletcher (S 69) tells me that it is now eight years since he and his wife started their little B&B in Pembrokeshire. Last year, they were totally run off their feet; however they ended up Number 1 on TripAdvisor for the whole of Wales in October. Last year Steve finished building a car port for their two vintage cars (1955 MG Magnette and 1969 Morris Traveller). Last year they enjoyed holding an NGS open garden day, which blocked the whole village with traffic as they had about 200 visitors. However, after such a busy year they decided that at their age, they really wanted to have more time for themselves and would not take so many bookings. This year, they closed the B&B in March and cancelled the NGS open day, visits by appointment only. Currently they are not at all sure if they will open again, so they might have even more time for the car workshop, gardening and perhaps another open garden day.

The Weald

Peter Owen (Lx 63)

Tim Gummer (Lx 00) is still working as a Partner at Ashurst LLP in London and recently moved to Peaslake in the Surrey Hills with his wife, Frances, and two young boys, Henry and

Owen.

Hamish Donaldson (Ldr 54) went with his wife on a French Polynesian cruise from Tahiti to Sydney on his way to visit a daughter in Auckland, before COVID hit. On their return, he



was busy organising Haslemere's VE Day 75th Anniversary Celebrations (including a Carnival and full-size Spitfire replica) – but it all had to be cancelled. He was also due to direct the musical *Salad Days* in June, to be performed by the Haslemere Players, but that has had to be cancelled as well. Since lockdown his daughters, including **Catherine Broadley** (W 92) have been making sure he and his wife have been obeying all the 'rules'.

Before COVID, OO Weald Walkers **John Richardson** (St A 61) **Bev Boag** (St A 60), **Martin Boag** (St A 62) Boag, and **John Williams** (St A 62) over from Haifa, joined by John Templeton and John Sedgwick, enjoyed walks to Waverley Abbey, the New Forest and Stansted Park, and pub lunches. May and June walks were nixed. All OOs welcome to join future walks (email: john1260@gmail.com).

Howard Macnamara (Sc 49), who founded the West Sussex OO Dinners, is well and relaxed in retirement.

In March **John Richardson** (St A 61) was leading a Caribbean tour on board MV Braemar when cases of Covid were found on board. The ship was put into quarantine and was stranded in the Bermuda Triangle until a port was found that would allow the ship to berth. It was Cuba and then passengers were repatriated by a Government flight. He went into quarantine at home in the UK and then into lock down. He started to sort through cupboards, found lots of things related to Oundle and decided to write down memories of his life. He has based seven "Chapters" on the Seven Ages of Man, each of which is headed by a photograph of the windows in the School Chapel. He fears that he has now reached the seventh, so must continue writing before the second childishness takes hold.

The highlight of the last year for **David Meredith** (Lx 78) was the wedding of his eldest son, **Harry Meredith** (F 11) to his fiancé, Megan Sapseid, in South Africa on 15 February 2020. The marriage itself took place at a lovely vineyard near Stellenbosch, and either side of the main event, David and his wife, Kirstie, had a brilliant fortnight

in Cape Town. As well as meeting Megan's South African family, and visiting local attractions, David also found time to watch a provincial cricket match at Newlands. An evening safari and a trip up Table Mountain will live long in the memory, and at the same time, David and Kirstie looked after granddaughter, Mila whilst Harry and Megan enjoyed some time with the many friends and family who made the trip. In all, over 100 attended the ceremony, of whom 70+ had come from the UK and elsewhere in the world.

Will Meredith (F 14) was a suitably irreverent master of ceremonies for his brother, and Harry's old Fisher roommate, **Digby Morse** (F 11) was one of the joint best men. Digby, George Biggs (Harry's best friend from Bath University) delivered a highly entertaining speech that was loosely based on Harry's alleged diaries from his school and university days. Harry sees Digby pretty frequently, and he has now moved to a flat in Wandsworth, whilst continuing to work for Fisher Investments. Both Will and Digby attended an excellent stag weekend in York in October 2019, as did **Greg Wilkinson** (St A 11). David joined them for the Day at the Races and was pleased/relieved to break even with the bookies.

To complete the OO representation at the wedding, **Andrew Pincott** (Lx 78) and his wife, Jo, were there to see Andrew's godson deliver his vows. Two months earlier, Andrew had celebrated his 60th birthday in December, as well as his release from hospital after removal of prostate cancer, with a party at Shepherd Neame brewery, at which David was also present, and able to confirm that Andrew can organise a 'piss up in a brewery'. After Harry's wedding, Andrew and Jo went on a safari holiday to celebrate his recovery, which was a truly memorable trip before lockdown. Andrew will be retiring as Business Development and Marketing Director for the accountants Kreston Reeves in mid-2021, but will have plenty to keep him occupied: he is a trustee of Two Wheels for Life, which raises funds to equip and train Sub-Saharan African health workers

with motorcycles, and he has recently completed two trips to their operations in Lesotho - the Roof of Africa.

Andrew is also a volunteer at Chatham Historic Dockyard - restoring vehicles and exhibits - which allows him to indulge his mechanical tendencies using tools as varied as scalpels and lump hammers. Jo continues her work for the Ministry of Justice.

Harry and Megan have not rested on their laurels, post wedding. Very recently, they were straight out of the blocks when house viewing was permitted post-lockdown and have now completed the purchase of a house in Chilworth, just south of Guildford. Lockdown has meant that Harry now works almost exclusively from home for U-Switch, and that is anticipated to continue, as he will be one of many that will no longer need to commute daily to London. Harry and Megan have been busy on another front too – a son is due to be born in December. DadDad (as David is called by Mila) is thrilled that the Meredith name is secure for another generation.

Unfortunately, lockdown has not favoured Will. He has again endured a frustrating year trying to join the world of work, and job prospects are very much thinner on the ground now. So he has embarked on training for the AAT qualification (Association of Accounting Technicians), which he can do remotely, and whilst he has no great desire to follow his father into the world of accountancy practice, the qualification will hopefully aid his longer-term prospects. However that has meant that he has the time to play cricket for the Kent based travelling side, Band of Brothers, and has also turned out for a couple of other teams, now that cricket is happening again. Will has recently seen **James Campbell** (F 14) and he also keeps in touch with many of his OO contemporaries (remotely, at present), including **Ashley Cuthbert** (S 14), who has just secured a place at Sandhurst. Others who have been in touch include **Alexander (AJ) Johnson** (F 14), **Ben Richmond** (G 14), and recently engaged **Jake Walker** (F 14).

David reports that his cousin, **Col (Retd) William English, CBE** (Lx 80) continues on his journey from

◀ 'Tank man to Business man', having left regular service in 2017. William is chair of his family business in Kent, an ambassador for the Institute of Directors (IoD) (Kent), and a Non-Executive Director of OSTC Group, and he chairs their strategy committee. William continues as a distant learner with Heriot Watt University, studying brewing and distilling; he looks forward to continuing on his new journey towards becoming an effective businessman.

David has also exchanged emails with **Phil Yarrow** (Lx 79), who continues to live near West Malling in Kent with his wife, Julie, a reiki practitioner.

Paul Barrett (Lx 78) completed his year in office as High Sheriff of Kent at the end of March this year and reports that it was an amazing experience, and he met so many interesting people. One lasting memory for Paul was to see how much we rely on the work done by the voluntary sector in ensuring that life in the county goes on. Many of these volunteers work tirelessly day after day looking after

the most vulnerable people in society. It was a privilege for Paul to be able to thank these people on behalf of all of us. He was delighted to have met several members of the Royal Family on their official visits, including the Queen, when she visited the Royal British Legion Industries and village in Aylesford.

The advent of lockdown meant that Paul's year ended very suddenly and without formality. His High Sheriff's diary went from 24 engagements in March to zero overnight. But he is still active in the family business, and was pleased that they were able to reopen fully on 1 June, although their service and parts operations remained open at a lower capacity to look after key workers' vehicles throughout lockdown.

Paul had to conclude by reporting that, sadly, his Mother passed away in a care home on 5 June with a COVID related illness.

Richard Kemsley (C 78) was able to tell David that he had fully recovered from his brain tumour. He was scanned just before lockdown and given the all clear. It was a strange

experience for him, sitting in the car with his wife, Jo, eating their packed lunch outside the hospital in London so as to avoid contact with anyone. He had previously planned to lunch at a very nice restaurant nearby.

Richard has become very busy working on phone mast letting renewals for a couple of national firms. As he has worked from home for nearly 30 years, it is business as usual, except that he sees more of his colleagues via Teams etc. than previously. He hadn't physically been into the office for three years. However, he still manages the family farm, and although he was unable to visit for three months, it survived without his physical presence. Richard's father (now 94) still lives next to the farm, has excellent live-in carers and has kept safe. Home school for Richard's daughter, Julia (13) has been relatively easy as her school made them stick to the timetable, thus putting structure in their day. In fact, they worked very hard. It seems to Richard that every teenager now has a 'TikTok' twitch!

David has also heard from **Jeremy**

BOOTH'S




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Sankey (Lx 78) who continues to live and work in Melbourne. Jes felt that it was probably easiest to call this year "Gap Year 2.0" - as in not visiting the UK for another year. Given that Jes had flights booked a year ago, and his brother had arranged test match tickets for the WI test, Jes used unreportable expletives!

Even before bush fires, and well before Covid, the retail climate in Australia was facing tough times. So when you're working in a retail-centric media agency with clients who are squeezing their budgets, it's no fun. Jes left the agency towards the back end of 2019 and thought it would be a nice idea to have a bit of a sabbatical over summer/Christmas and get back to work in the new year once the kids had gone back to school.

That plan was going well with a number of opportunities in the pipeline until March and WFH and home schooling became the new normal. So Jes took the opportunity to help the kids with their work - and sharpen up his maths skills and French accent. He has had some freelance projects, but with Melbourne back in lockdown, with no certainty about an end date, it is back to teaching. There are still options on the work front, but timings are dependent on how the business climate looks after this wave passes. Jes' wife, Chantelle, also started a new job in the week of lockdown in March, which means that she has spent the entire time working out of the spare room. Fun times down under!

Finally, David concludes with his own news, and apart from the wonderful South African wedding trip, things have been much the same as previous years. Invariably this revolves around work (in which context, David has also seen **Richard Piper** (Lx 66) and has discovered the joys of Zoom meetings) which has been reassuringly busy during lockdown, but he continues to persist with golf, and enjoys fly-fishing, cricket scoring and rugby watching. He also continues to chair his local parish council in Nettlestead. The annual carp and catfishing trip to France has been cancelled for the first time in 16 years, but the vegetable patch has gained additional attention

this year. David has also continued to enjoy his role as Honorary Reporting Accountant to the OO Club, which provided the opportunity to revisit Oundle twice in the last year and catch up with all those who are involved in the Club.

George Duncan (D 72) reports that he is safe and well as is his younger brother **Andrew Duncan** (D 74). George retired as a partner in Charles Russell Speechlys LLP at the end of April but is still working part time as a consultant for the time being. He had plans to spend some of his new free time in archaeological activities amongst other things but alas these have had to be postponed.

David Northcroft (B 58) has used lockdown to improve his fitness, despite calls from his extensive family to temper his competitive streak, which he's sure he developed at Oundle and has carried for 60+ years.

Malcolm Walters (D 72) writes that he has been back to Oundle far more frequently over the last twelve months than for many a long year. His 26-year-old son, Richard, has been based there during the last academic year doing teacher training in the Modern Languages department. Malcolm has seen the school through totally different eyes than 50 years ago, because he himself taught Modern Languages throughout his career. Unsurprisingly, Modern Languages at Oundle are in fine fettle, particularly with Sara Davidson at the helm. She, alongside the Head of German, Emily Wagstaffe, has been a tower of strength to Richard, who has learned such a great deal through them both over the year. Like all the teaching staff, Richard was allocated a House, and of all the Houses, he ended up in Dryden! It was only right at the end of the summer term that he let out that his father had been in the House all those years ago.

Jon Higham (N 79) writes that February 2020 saw a thoroughly enjoyable evening celebrating **Michael Mattinson's** (N 78) 60th birthday held at the French House pub Soho London. Fellow New House OOs from back in the day were present too including **Tom Mattinson** (N 80), **Charles Major** (N 79), **Stephen**

Allen (N 78) and **Andrew Myers** (N 79) with their respective partners and families. By the time this is read Jon will have completed his Masters at the University of Brighton where he also lectures on the *Design for Digital Media* degree course. For his MA Jon produced a book called 'A Life in Objects' in which recounts the memories of an 89-year-old clock maker, John Strevett, as he looks back on his life using his own words, illustrated with curated photographs of his life's possessions in a square format artistic book. During the lockdown Jon set up a photo studio in his basement to capture all the photographs needed for the book. It can be viewed on his website jonhigham.co.uk

Suzanne Korff (K 00) and her husband, Alexander, continue to enjoy living in the New Forest with their two young children, Maximilian and Audrey, plus Newfoundland dog Keats. It's been over six years now since Suzanne left London and she is still at Princess Cruises as their Director of Marketing Communications. If anyone happens to be passing through the New Forest, please do get in touch!

Peter Owen (Lx 63) is well into retirement from the hospitality industry giving time last year for a cruise with Seabourn to Alaska; time was also found for a splendid week in the Maldives. This year he has four on-line singing lessons each week and, when choirs are reinstated in churches, singing again in St John's Boldre in the New Forest and also with a group of singers visiting cathedrals when resident choirs are on holiday. Before the pandemic restrictions, he managed two days in Coventry Cathedral in January. He has a continuing interest in pipe organs and looks forward to visits once travelling becomes easier. His wife Marianne continues as a financial accountant with Travelopia now working most of the time from home. His daughter Suzanne Korff (K 00) has written above. His son **David Owen** (F 03) remains based in Abu Dhabi as a senior first officer with Etihad on the A380 and hopes to resume flying as soon as restrictions are lifted, with perhaps a move onto the A350. ►

Armed Forces

Dominic Titcomb (G 11)

This year has seen OOs conduct a wide range of tasks across the globe in command of our soldiers, sailors and airmen. From leading our people on operations abroad, to training roles and capability development, the OO contribution to defence is as broad as ever. Perhaps most unusual for these pages is the contribution made towards the COVID-19 response. Uniformed OOs have helped

▼ Capt Adam Smith (F 06) trying to blend in to the local environment

coordinate the response across the country as well as Down Under. A particular highlight in writing the piece this year was the automatic response I received from one individual notifying me that my email “would not be monitored, forwarded or actioned.” Whilst I believe he has been deployed somewhere hot and sandy rather than gardening at home, it certainly made me chuckle!

Brig **Matt Jackson** (G 90) continues to command 3 Commando Brigade. Since he last wrote, he deployed on Ex Baltic Protector (big Joint Expeditionary Force exercise in the Baltic) in the summer, and then



to Norway for Winter Deployment 20 (Jan-Mar). He re-did his Cold Weather Warfare Course (which included re-conducting his ice-breaking drills!) and then acted as Commander Land Forces for Ex Cold Response (Norwegian INVITEX). Since March, his brigade has helped the NHS during C-19, deployed small numbers



on Op Broadshare to the Caribbean to support to the Overseas Territories in the event of C-19 overmatch, and prepared for Op Caribbean - HADR support to the Caribbean OTs in the event of Hurricane strike. He hands over to his successor on 2 Sep (sad days) and then heads off to RCDS. He bumps into Brig **Tony Turner** (N 94) and Col **Jon Dowd** (Lx 90) occasionally.

Col **Giles Harris** DSO OBE (Ldr 91) has returned from commanding OP CABRIT in Estonia – a happy but challenging two years. He was honoured to get an OBE on Nov 19 Op Honours list. He is now working as the Chief of Staff in the directorate for Euro-Atlantic Security in the MOD, which is responsible for our contribution to HMG policy on Russia, NATO, EU, and all European bi-lateral relations.

Lt Col **Mark Mankowski** (Sn 94) found himself commanding an Emergency Support Force assisting the community in the Adelaide Hills in South Australia recover from the devastating bushfires. He had about a

week in March to refit before he had to focus on supporting the federal and state governments respond to COVID19. As CO of 16 Royal Australian Artillery Regiment, Mark reflects on a mixed year; regret for the host of things in his second year of command that they will not be able to achieve, but also pride in the tenacity of the men and women he serves with. He hands over command in December and then will most likely move to Canberra for some staff officer time.

Lt Col **Sam Cates** (Lx 96) remains in command of 2 Rifles, a light role infantry battalion based in Northern Ireland. He is currently deployed in Afghanistan on Operation TORAL 10 where his unit is responsible for providing security for NATO forces across Kabul. He returns home at the end of the year and will then, sadly, relinquish command. Who knows what comes next? Hopefully some leave and an opportunity to catch up with family and friends! One of the pre-deployment highlights, in Sept 19, was a charitable bike ride

with fellow Lx 96 leavers in support of another OO whose children have a debilitating illness; together they raised over £5,000.

Lt Col **James Cullinan** (G 92) is currently working in the Land Warfare Centre (LWC) in Warminster leading the LWC Transformation Programme and coordinating 2 legs of the Army Ex Transglobe 21-23 - an offshore sailing global circumnavigation expedition. He lives locally in Crockerton, with Rosie, 3 children, 2 dogs, 2 ponies and 10 chickens! Maj **Harry Wallace** (St A 98) commands 148 Commando Forward Observation Battery, 29 Commando Regiment, Royal Artillery.

Maj **Will Wade**, (St A 07) continues to manage Capt **Tom Arkell** (St A 07), who has transferred from the Royal Marines to the RAF Reg early this year. He is at Staff College for 6 months before taking over as SO2 ISTAR in 12 Brigade. Lt Col **Will Robinson** (G 92) relinquished command in August last year and deployed to Iraq for six months, returning just before lockdown. He



Lt Col Mark Mankowski (Sn 94) leads his Regiment in support of the Australian federal Covid 19 effort

has now moved to a new job in the Personnel Directorate in Army HQ.

Flight Lt **Ed Arkell** (St A 06) has had a busy year. After finishing his tour with 3 (Fighter) Sqn, he passed the Qualified Weapons Instructor Course (QWIC) in October and was posted to 6 Sqn at RAF Lossiemouth. He and Zoe left Yorkshire to live in quarters in Elgin and while they were there Frederick Arkell arrived two days before Christmas! Deployments have been pretty busy recently and since Freddie arrived he has been deployed 3 out of 7 months but reports that Zoe has been amazing. He has just finished Baltic Air Policing and is looking forward to a Spring Exercise in the USA to prepare for operations in the summer, but most importantly spending more time at home with Zoe and Freddie!

Capt **Adam Smith** (F 06) has deployed on Op CROSSWAYS to

Saudi Arabia in support of the Royal Saudi Land Forces (RSLF) as a Liaison Officer (LO) to help them develop as an army. He was based mostly out of the Defence Section in the British Embassy in Riyadh but also travelled extensively around the country, spending a significant period of time on the Saudi southern border with Yemen, experiencing first-hand the nightly drone and rocket attacks conducted by the Houthi rebels in Yemen into Saudi Arabia. Since returning to the UK, he has taken part in the Army telemark skiing championships in France, gained selection for the Army team and competed at the Inter Services Snow Sports Championships in Meribel. He is now the Adjutant at the Army Training Regiment Grantham.

Capt **Dom Titcomb** (G 11) and Capt **Guy Parker** (B 09) have been reunited at Regimental Duty with the

Royal Lancers. Guy has returned to Catterick as the Regimental Signals Officer following a stint as Aide-de-Camp to the Deputy Supreme Allied Commander of Europe in Brussels, a fascinating experience that he thoroughly enjoyed. Dom continues as a troop leader in command of an anti-tank troop and was mobilised as part of the Loo Roll Protection Force (LRPF) during Op RESCRIPT – the military's contribution to the COVID-19 response. He deployed to Lidl for his second operational tour and was lucky to survive. In the coming months he looks forward to deploying abroad on operations. Capt **Tom Wythe** (Lx 06) continues as a Group Leader at the Army Officer Selection Board in Westbury and led the Army team to a magnificent victory during the Inter-Services Cresta Competition in St Moritz.

Old Oundelian Lodge

Howard Allen (Sn 75)

For our meeting in October 2019, the outgoing Master, **Graham Solari** (G 65) installed **Iain Wadie** (Sn 87) as Master of the Lodge. In November we had the news that **Philip de Voil** (G 86) had been promoted to London Grand Rank with his appointment to the active rank of Metropolitan Junior Grand Deacon within London Freemasonry. This is a great honour and reflects Philip's work both in Freemasonry and the community. In February 2020, **Ross Murray** (Lx 10) took his third step in his Masonic career at a very interesting meeting.

Early in 2020 Gill Spragg gave us the news that her beloved husband, **Michael Spragg** (Lx 51) had died on New Years Day, peacefully in hospital. Michael was initiated into the Old Oundelian Lodge in June 1984. He took an active part in the Lodge but an accident on his farm in 1987 resulted in permanent brain damage. He remained a charming and

affable character but was unable to attend the Lodge. Michael was elected an Honorary Member in April 2010 and Gill brought him to our Oundle meeting in May 2010, the last occasion he was able to be with us. The service of celebration of his life was very well attended (well over 200) and there was a lot of laughter and love in celebration of the life of a lovely man.

Soon after the February meeting, all Masonic activity in England was suspended so we were not able to have our April meeting nor go to the Public Schools Lodges Festival at Tonbridge in July. The Old Tonbridgian Lodge is planning to hold a joint Festival with the Old Cheltonian Lodge in Cheltenham in 2021.

During the year the Old Oundelian Lodge made charitable contributions for the Old Oundelian Lodge Bursary, The Oundle Foodbank, The Alzheimer's Society, The Stroke Association and the Masonic COVID



Appeal. With the coronavirus pandemic continuing to challenge all of us in our everyday lives, the Masonic Charitable Foundation (MCF) is working in partnership with the United Grand Lodge of England (UGLE). Donations from members of the Craft have exceeded £1m and the MCF has matched this funding and has allocated £2.75m to support Freemasonry's charitable response. This money is already being used to fund local projects across the country identified by UGLE's ten Regional Communication Groups. Projects

supported include the provision of Personal Protective Equipment to NHS and care workers; funding meals prepared at masonic halls for isolated and vulnerable people, and supporting the recruitment of volunteers for local Age UK branches and other services.

The Old Oundelian Lodge gives its members a great deal of pleasure both in terms of its Masonic fraternity and also the spirit and community that arises from the fact that we have all experienced life at Oundle School in its various aspects and over many years. Our members include **Matthew Dear, Development Director**, **Matthew Lim** (B 11), **Ross Murray** (Lx 10), **Sandy Rowell** (C 04), **Peter Seebohm** (Sc 02), **Rob Shaw** (S 92), **Chris Tovey** (Sc 91), **Iain Wadie** (Sn 87), **Philip de Voil** (G 86), **Dom Vincent** (Lx 82), **Howard Allen** (Sn 75), **Nigel Hewitt** (B 75), **Peter Hotchin** (C 72) **Geoffrey Woolsey-**

Brown (Lx 66), **Graham Solari** (G 65), **Charles Kilner** (StA 59), **Michael Hammon** (Sn 56), **Michael Tomalin** (N 56), **Michael Turnbull** (Sc 55), **Paul Newsome** (StA 55), **Alan Holmes** (G 55), **David Thorpe** (Ldr 53), **Bill Whittall** (Ldr 52), **Tom Blackburn** (Sn 50), **John Brooke** (C 47), **Kevin Chawner** (B 47), and **David Collins** (S 45). We would be pleased to hear from anyone wanting to become a joining member or a candidate new to Freemasonry.

Our regular meetings are held in London at Freemasons Hall, Great Queen Street on the fourth Thursday in February, April and October. Members of the Craft are most welcome to join us, as are male Old Oundelians, their fathers and members of staff, both past and present who may be interested in becoming involved in Freemasonry. There are also women's Freemasonry

organizations (The Order of Women Freemasons owf.org.uk and The Honourable Fraternity of Ancient Freemasons hfaf.org) but not an Old Oundelian Women's Lodge - yet! Should you be interested in joining the Old Oundelian Lodge then please have a look at www.oundelianfreemasons.org, [facebook: Old Oundelian Lodge 5682](https://www.facebook.com/OldOundelianLodge5682), follow us on Twitter: @ool5682 or contact me by phone on 01785 713981 (home) or by e-mail oldoundelian5682@gmail.com

Freemasonry has moved to a new and welcome phase of increased openness, with our charitable aims and activities being publicised through traditional and new media. The Craft's aims and objectives are available to a worldwide audience via the website of The United Grand Lodge of England (www.ugle.org.uk). This website provides insight into our history and our contribution to today's society.



The Master, Iain Wadie,
collecting donated PPE visors

Africa

Charles Salem (C 78)

Having survived one of the world's strictest initial lockdowns, 'life just pedals along,' for **David Leishman**, (Sc 65), 'with much time outdoors on the slopes of Table Mountain, dealing with nasty invasive tree species, mainly wattles from Oz, to allow the *fynbos* to flourish, and that's something that *could* be done in all but the hardest initial five weeks of shutdown, when we were confined utterly to our homes save for shopping and surgery!'

The same can be said of **James Bisdée** (St A 83) who writes, 'life in South Africa at the moment is somewhat challenging, if you put together COVID 19, corruption, borrowing from the IMF and only 16% of taxpayers actually paying tax!! I am still involved in construction with Randcivils Pty Ltd, based in Port Elizabeth. No change in pastimes, either, with mountain biking on a regular basis and ocean

swimming!! Harriet my eldest daughter, (22) has just completed her second year at Nottingham University where she is studying civil engineering and playing hockey for the first team. Middle daughter, Gemma, (20) is studying Business at Stellenbosch University and has also just successfully completed her second year as a Golden Key Student. She still plays hockey but in the social teams. Isabella, (16), our youngest, is now studying at Collegiate School, playing first team hockey and enjoying life. She would be happier being back at school rather than having to be taught online. Sarah, wife and mother, keeps us all together and under control! She is still, when the opportunity arises, doing interior decorating.'

John Knight (Sn 76) reports that he has only one more year of teaching, at Bishops School, before he retires.



Rowan Watt-Pringle (St A 00) is entering the final year of his PhD, focusing on various aspects of coral restoration. He and his partner were based on a remote island in Indonesia and were forced to leave when COVID hit. 'I returned to South Africa, making it back to the country 12 hours before the borders were locked down. My partner had to return to France and I will join her there as soon as international travel reopens, while I finish the write-up of my final thesis.'

Thank you to all who wrote in and I look forward to hearing from more of you next year.

Australasia

Charles Salem

AUSTRALIA

Anthony Milne Stoughton (S 81) has finally been able to conquer the chronic sciatica from which he has been suffering for the last couple of years, and 'become a contributor, once more!' Working with a personal trainer has meant that he was able to avoid surgery, which pleased him no end. 'I couldn't work during that time, so I went on an interstate 'Invasion of The Poms Concert Tour' beginning with Robbie Williams in Sydney then Queen in Perth, Ed Sheeran in

Adelaide and James Blunt back in Sydney. I topped that up with *The Book of Mormon* and a 5 *Seconds of Summer* concert in Melbourne and the Bolshoi Ballet's *Spartacus* in Brisbane. What an adventure.'

Mike Selbie (Ldr 79) is enjoying semi-retirement, which seems to include regular sailing while writing a second online sailing RYA theory course. He took part in the iconic Sydney to Hobart, as navigator on a Salona 38, one of the smaller yachts in the fleet. 'Mid-fleet result, which

would have been a lot better had we not been becalmed on Storm Bay on the last night!'

From a semi-retiree to **Simon Corlett**, (G 77), who reports, "being a retiree allows one to spend one's time gracefully! Following the motorcycle trip to Kashmir last year, I walked two Camino routes, (the Norte and the Primitivo), in northern Spain, between August and October. A visit to the UK followed, to catch up with remaining family and friends, including Messrs **Mark Parrish** (G 77) and **Mark**

'become a contributor, once more!'

Boomla (G 77). December through to the end of March, was spent in Sao Paulo, Brazil, with my partner, looking after her elderly parents. I managed to get Qantas' last scheduled 747 flight from Santiago, Chile, only to spend two weeks of mandatory quarantine in a Harbourside Sydney hotel, courtesy of the NSW government. The food and view were excellent, though!

Harvey Jones (S 88) reports from Adelaide that he is, 'still working at the Submarine Corp and still on council, debating such weighty issues as whether we need a by-law to register cats.'

Like many others, **Rob Bramley** (C 82) has been working from home, 'I have been pre-occupied with mid-season (grains) fieldwork and my son's 21st, successfully held within the COVID rules, last weekend. I have missed out on a trip to UK, which would have occupied much of July, and now wonder when/if a trip to the UK may ever be possible, or at least straightforward. With an 85yr old father still there, this is a somewhat confronting issue. I have otherwise been focussing on various projects dealing with wine terroir (in the Barossa and Margaret River regions of Australia and Marlborough area of NZ) and sensor-based management of fertilizers for cereals, and will be speaking about the former as a plenary speaker at the International Terroir Congress. These are now being held virtually, instead of face-to-face – a pity, as past conferences have involved some very good dinners.'

For **David Hollands** (N 51) this has been a year to remember, for all the wrong reasons. 'After three years of severe drought, south-eastern Australia, where I live, was hit by devastating bushfires. The total area of forest, farmland, houses and property burned was greater than the combined

area of both Scotland and Wales. On New Year's Eve I stood, together with three family members, looking at a wall of fire three kilometres away, advancing towards us across the flood plain of the Snowy River. Once it crossed that, my property and, indeed, the whole town of Orbost was at its mercy. At 2.30am, we were about to evacuate when the wind changed, blowing the fire back on itself. It had been a very close call and many were not as lucky. The fires had barely died down when COVID hit and I am writing this from a position of lockdown. On a brighter note, I did manage a trip to UK in 2019 to see my brother **Mike Hollands** (N 54), and catch up with my old friend **David Boddington** (St A 50). I also saw Mike's son **Robin Hollands** (N 84). I am now working on an autobiography and have thoroughly enjoyed turning my thoughts back to the times of Graham Stainforth, Bill Coulson, Rolf Barber and others.'

Also in and out of lockdown is **Anthony Bayley** (S 63) 'but luckily I have the comfort of glorious views over Westernport Bay and long walks along the beach, along with some golf. Still working part time for the major development banks on trade facilitation and river port projects in South Asia and Myanmar, although field trips have been cancelled. Expecting our first grandchild in October, and hope to be able to travel up to Queensland by then.'

Charles Allen (B 54) writes from Melbourne, 'The last year was somewhat confused for me as it started well with my annual crop of scholars being processed and my daughter-in-law elected to parliament and plans to attend her first speech firmly in place. Unfortunately, I had a sore hip at the time but, accompanied by our

imperturbable OO colleague and friend, your notable correspondent, we set forth for Canberra. After hearing her maiden speech, I remember nothing for the next two months! After a further month of recovery in the hospital I have been slowly returning to this troubled world. Septicaemia is a hard task master. What came out was alive but set on a long road to recovery.' And as if this were not bad enough, his wife decided to do some aerobatics in the bathroom and broke her wrist, leaving Charles as 'chief cook and bottle washer.'

With his father **Chris Sutcliffe** (St A 53) so often contributing the news up until his passing in 2015, **Neil Sutcliffe** (St A 85) has not, until now, written in himself. 'It's amazing what the Melbourne lockdown can achieve!' After graduating from Durham, Neil met Annie, his Australian wife-to-be, by chance in London. They emigrated to Australia in 1994, first to Perth, then Melbourne. Since 2003, they have both been advisers and partners of their own family wealth management franchise. He catches up with **Harry Corsham** (F 84), for a local drink, and with **James Carlisle** (St A 85) occasionally, when he visits from Sydney. 'Daughter **Grace**, (K 13), and son **Austin**, (St A 15), capped off four Sutcliffe generations attending Oundle from 1918. Both, of course, are spending the COVID lockdown, at home, with M & D.'

With 9 and 6 year olds, **Tim Hamlyn**, (C 96), has spent most of his year home schooling, while partner Helen brings in the bacon. 'I've enjoyed the company of **Charles Salem** (C 78), often, and **Sarah Hampton** (D 95) whose girls are at the same school as my two. Other than that, little has happened this year and I suspect, little more will.'

NEW ZEALAND

Gordon Waddie (Sn 87) has a new role as a veterinarian with NZ's Ministry of Primary Industries, working with the meat industry. 'This complements my finishing a Masters degree with

London University in Veterinary Epidemiology and Public Health. One outcome of COVID is that no one needs to ask what epidemiology is anymore! I enjoyed statistics at Oundle and this is applying statistics

to population health and very much built on what I learnt in those years. On the back of that I also passed my membership exam to the Australian New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists (Epidemiology Chapter). ►

◀ Oh, and we moved house AGAIN, (although still near Christchurch), so as to combine our households - we have enough girls for a whole netball team and reserves.'

Tim Rogers (Lx 79) moved from Mumbai, India to Nelson NZ. 'With the pending arrival of COVID, it seemed the most prudent step to take and I have returned home with family where we are enjoying the freedoms of elimination, (for now at least). I was sad to say goodbye to the pulse and pace of India, and to the colours and the warm people.'

Mack Morum, (S 59), had booked a

trip to UK and France, leaving in April where he was going to catch up with his old study mate and friend **Mike Hellier** (S 60). But Covid-19 blocked our trip. 'Six weeks of lockdown followed with only door deliveries, but as we live at the beach and with no traffic, enjoyed pleasant and rigorous walks. Zoomed brother **John** (S 62) and relations around the world.'

Bill Heffernan (Sn 81), continues to research in electrical engineering at the University of Canterbury in Christchurch. Now living in Lyttelton, Bill is still growing trees in his spare time, both commercially in the north

of the South Island, (redwoods, cypresses and Douglas-fir), and in his arboretum in the foothills of the Southern Alps in Canterbury, where he is foolishly attempting to establish the most complete collection of conifer species on the planet. 'Sadly my younger brother **Charlie Heffernan** (Sn 87), died in late 2018. Those at a celebration of Charlie's life, in Bradford-on-Avon, included **Matt Hensher** (Sn 87), and **Richard Page** (S 80). I maintain regular contact with Richard and also **Mark Reeves** (C 80) - long-lasting friendships forged at Oundle.'

Canada

James Clayton (G 68)

Greetings to all from Canada. We are managing the Covid-19 pandemic reasonably well, despite our neighbour to the south. I am pleased to have received news from a number of OOs living in Canada.

David Radcliffe (B 54) writes "This week I moved to a retirement home, FoxHollow, here in London (Ontario) - a new home which just opened. Otherwise Covid-19 has made life so flat so far, but I had not been getting out anyway, so for me there has been little change. Just a change of view. I read a lot and play music a lot and otherwise stay put. I wonder what my father Walter, one of the original Bramstonians, would have made of the pandemic, since nothing quite like it came along in his medical career."

News from **David Hemmings** (Sn 64): in late 2018 I published a spreadsheet of 5,300 British Home Children (mostly young girls) brought to Eastern Canada by Maria Rye and the Church of England Waifs & Strays Society between 1869 and 1914, administered from Avenue House in Peckham, South London and Our Western Home in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario. It can be found at: <http://www.nhsm.ca/collection/documents/DATABASEOFMARIAR>

YEBRITISHHOMECCHILDREN-v.2-JUNE2020.pdf

Maria Rye was the first of many (including Dr. Barnardo's) to build a huge programme of pauper child-removal from the urban slums and workhouses of Britain - the Victorian underworld of the 19th century - to farms and homes in Eastern Canada. I am the current President of the Niagara Historical Society and have published eight books on topics related to Niagara-on-the-Lake. A few challenges to keep my retirement years productive!

Dave Brentnall (Sn 76) is still living in Laval, Montreal and working for the same company MMC Packaging - now in the ownership of TeknipleX having been sold by the family owners last year. Fortunately, as a supplier to "essential businesses" they have remained open and very busy during the pandemic. He has got used to working remotely but international globetrotting has been completely curtailed. Erratic golf from near brilliance to complete disaster is still a main pastime during the somewhat short season but the annual fishing trip was exceptional this year and hopefully the Maritimes will open their borders to Quebecois soon so that the salmon fishing trip to New Brunswick can go ahead. Other



than that, projects around the house, inside and out have been a main focus since the lockdown. Communication with fellow OOs back in the east of England has been reduced to social media although he did see **David Sutton** (Sn 74) during a business trip to the UK back in February.



◀ **David Hemmings**



◀ **Dave Brentnall**



John Foster

John Foster (Sc 51) writes that his major activity these past 12 months has been following up on his book, *Oil and World Politics* (2018), with articles and (until the pandemic) talks across Canada. He and his wife Millie enjoy living in Kingston, Ontario. Last year, they visited family in Toronto, Vancouver and London, including his brother **Robert Foster** (Sc 61). Since the pandemic, they have cancelled all travel but enjoy reading books long-forgotten on the bookshelves, take-out meals from favourite Indian and Italian restaurants, and walking in the local conservation area. He reported with regret that **Michael Bell** (Lx 48) passed away in May. Michael was Head of School during John's first year at Oundle. In recent years, they met annually for lunch in Brockville, halfway between Ottawa and Kingston. Michael and his wife Anne Burnett were enthusiastic participants at OO Dinners in Ontario.

Bob Freeman (LS 69) writes: Sadly, I have nothing much to contribute apart from the fact we are surviving thus far, but my wife and I miss the close contact with our grandchildren. Thank goodness for video chat software on the computer. I maintain contact with **Richard Akroyd** (LS 1969) who resides in the Leicester area in the UK; he too is surviving COVID-19. Social distancing has resulted in my

being able to spend more time in the garage working on older motorcycles and as most of Ontario moves into Phase 3 of the return to "normalcy," I shall shortly be able to return to volunteer aircraft restoration activities at Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum in Hamilton. Travel plans to Europe made for spring this year had to be cancelled and I suspect it will be some time before we decide to risk the crowded conditions that prevail on air transport today.

Hi from **Donald Mertens** (G 57). My wife Susan and I are currently living in a rented townhouse while our home is being rebuilt from a two storey to a bungalow. I realize that this is the opposite to what most people do, but we wanted something that was environmentally friendly with minimal upkeep and in which we could live out the rest of our lives. Given the current situation with the Covid-19 pandemic, this decision appears to be a timely one, especially considering the catastrophic results seen as a result of underfunding and staffing of long term care and retirement homes in Canada: a national disgrace.

Our new home will exceed the building standards for sustainability in almost all respects, with in-floor heating, exceptional insulation, metal siding and a metal roof to name a few. We are expecting to be able to move back in by October.

We are fortunate in being able to meet outdoors with our family on a daily basis while observing physical distancing, and having a daughter-in-law who insists on doing our grocery shopping. I also cycle on a regular basis and am using free weights at home in order to stay sane and healthy.

Chris Sones (S 62) sends in these notes: my wife of 53 years and I are still alive and managing to cope with all the inconveniences of Covid-19. Our four children, three girls and one boy, are also doing very well and managing to stay virus free, despite two being in the USA in Phoenix and Seattle. The other two are in Vancouver and Toronto. Between them they have given us five grand-daughters, all of whom are also

virus free, touch wood. My two main activities are golf and bridge, although competitive bridge is on hold because of the virus. Golf is back but at the ripe old age of 76 I find that my scores tend to be closer to 100 than 90. It is now nine years since I retired from my Engineering profession and I cannot say I miss it. I still have fond memories of being the Oundle team captain under the guidance of 'Jas' Sharmon, who passed away some time ago.

Iain Smith (C 56), a former area correspondent writes: my response to the request for news is that I fall into the "still alive" category, with no major achievements beyond that. Still spending my winters living up the mountain at Silver Star, and skiing almost every day. In the summer we overlook picturesque Kalamalka Lake, golfing (walking) three times a week and riding my E-bike on the other days. Getting somewhat concerned that the skiing may be curtailed next winter by the threatened resurgence of Covid-19, and the fact that most of the winter staff are young Aussies and Euros on gap years who may not be allowed to travel. I pity my three university grandchildren who may end up living at home and working online. That would have been impossible in our day and makes me wonder how we would have handled it then. I guess present-day Oundle is faced with the same problem. Strange times indeed.

I had some interesting correspondence from **Nigel Napier-Andrews** (Sc 59) regarding the perfect Pavlova parfait. This meringue concoction may have been named after the famous ballerina Anna Pavlova, who toured Australia and New Zealand in the 1920s; both countries claim to have invented the dessert, still popular there. I have a deeper interest, because a few years ago at a school reunion in Toronto, I wanted to create something unique for the menu to impress the new Head of Oundle School. Together with the chef of the Albany Club, last bastion of the conservative elements in Toronto, we came up with a parfait based on the Pavlova and the similar Eton Mess. It may sound messy, but

mess is just an old English word used to describe a dish of food, from the old French *mes*, now *metis*. Eton Mess has red berries whereas our Oundle Mess has blue berries and, because it is served to adults not children, a touch of booze. It was well received.

Nigel added: I am still an active member of the Oundle community. I am also the inaugural donor in Alan Willis' new Public Schools North American donation scheme by which Canadians can get a tax receipt for donations to Oundle. I encourage other OOs to participate.

Several UK based OOs and I came up with the idea of a School House reunion and plans were well advanced for a May 2020 gathering, including a dinner in the old Tuck Shop, now the Common Room Dining Room,

featuring the now-famed Oundle Mess. Sadly it had to be postponed until 2021. One of the fascinating outcomes was a great collection of photos of contemporaries at School which we will put into a souvenir programme. Another is that many OOs, formerly friends at School, who had not been in touch for decades are now regularly corresponding with each other. Personally, I am happy to have renewed friendship with many old chums.

Peter Leighsmith (G 61) writes: In 2019 my wife and I went to the Cinque Terre in Italy and then on by train to stay in a villa outside Perugia, one of the ancient hill towns. Umbria is full of architectural interest and much less touristy than Tuscany. We returned via Rome to London for

a few days and made two trips to Oxford.

In January we went to Mexico for three weeks returning just before the start of the pandemic.

Since I can work at home - which is what I normally do anyway - being confined to home has not been that problematic. The summer is progressing well with gardening and golf but it has been a bit isolated with very few visitors outside of family.

Your correspondent and wife Julie are still living in Calgary, Alberta, with some skiing in the winter at nearby Banff and high-handicap golf during our brief summer. Work continues completing two property developments, despite Covid-19 and low oil prices, and we hope to have all finished by the end of the year.



1962 First VI Oundle Tennis team Front row, l to r: EC Sones (S 62), JA Sharman, coach, IPM Payne (G 62). Back row, l to r : ? ? M Douce (S 62) ? Hunter

Continental Europe

Jim Bennett (N 77)

Robin Apthorpe (S 59) attended the OO Sunshine Club lunch held at the RAC in December. He reports that **Gavin Choyce** (N 61) is doing a sterling job running it, although with illness and the passing of some of the original attendees, the event has lost some of its original zest. In March, Robin attended the over 60s lunch at the RAF Club where he met **Philip Hall** (S 58) for the first time in 63 years, before fleeing back to Portugal as Covid was just breaking out. **Jeremy Cross** (Sn 63) reports from Brittany where the lockdown has been strictly enforced. **Miles Davies** (G 71) replies in a similar vein. He and his family live on the coast about an hour North East of Stockholm and he seems to be keeping his head down.

Rupert Elderkin (N 94) continues his work as a war crimes prosecutor in the Hague. However, with funding tied in to the Brexit negotiations, his future is slightly uncertain. Like Miles, Rupert lives within walking distance of the coast with his wife and three boys – ideal for beachcombing. He and **Alex Goldsmith** (N 94) started to organise a New House reunion but were thwarted by Covid. At least they have the contacts gathered together ready for brighter times. **David Griffith** (B 72) is an international design consultant, normally based in South East Asia. However he has been working on the project via web meetings from the Black Forest. Webinars are accompanied with views of pastoral scenes and red kites from his new office window, but David is looking forward to heading back East.

Olivia Gross (née Brass D 03) moved to Hamburg in March 2019 with her husband Nick and daughter Heidi. She reports that **Pippa Rivero-Bosch** (D 03) paid her a visit in December last year and prior to that, they spent a weekend in the South of France with **Annabel Denham** (D 03) and **Alexandra Baggallay**

(D 03). Sadly due to Covid they haven't managed a get-together this year. Her brother **Jeremy Brass** (B 09) is still working for Grant Thornton in Cambridge. He was due to be married this May but Covid has delayed it for a year, which unfortunately means he will have to have a second stag party - not all bad news! Olivia's sister **Naomi Wilson** (née Brass D 06) and her husband Freddie had a daughter, Roberta, last May, who has been keeping them both on their toes during lockdown.

Peter Hallewell (N 76) has stayed in Les Gets for most of lockdown with just a brief trip to London to check on their flat. Their son **George Hallewell** (G 09) is working in Whistler and their daughter Rachael is next door in Morzine. Peter attended lunch at the RAF Club last year and was accompanied by Messrs **Alfred Rose** (B 74), **David Letten** (Sn 76) and **Geoff Mackrill** (B 76). **Florian Henn** (Sn 99) is still working for Lufthansa as the company's HR strategist. Times are tough with more than 700 aircraft grounded, but Florian manages to unwind by sailing his yacht and playing the violin. **David Hutchinson** (N 61) contacted me to say he is spending the lockdown on his farm in the hills of Colombia. His day is spent tending his crops of coffee, oranges, cardamom and orchids along with Zoom conferences to keep in touch with world economics and politics.

My fellow Old Novarian **Cord Matthies** (N 77) writes from Düsseldorf where he now lives after spending many years based in Brussels working as a Chemical Engineer. He is still in close contact with **Malcolm Brown** (N 79) and occasionally sees his brother Duncan Brown (N 77), unfortunately the last time being at a family funeral. Cord also sees his brother **Peter Matthies** (N 81) when he jets in twice a year from Santa Barbara, CA.

John MacDonald (StA 61) is another OO who seems to have



managed to hide from COVID by living on the isle of Ibiza. He says that things are starting to return to normal on the island with beach bars reopening so they can go out for meals like the old times. He has also enjoyed making contact with his old housemate **Kasem Visuth Visuthi** (StA 61) who is apparently very well. **Simon Volkwein** (Lx 06) started a new job whilst working from home which was tricky, however video conferencing and a stable internet connection meant he made the best of a tough situation. All in all the extra time at home with his wife and daughter has been a godsend as they prepare for the arrival of the next addition to the family - a daughter due in August.

Percy Kirkman (Sn 94) has spent the lockdown with his family in the chalet in La Tzoumaz. They used the time to plan the expansion of their real estate business into construction, which they are bringing to life now that Switzerland and France are opening up. **Malcolm Llewellyn** (Sc 60) has been trying to arrange a 60s reunion with **Nigel Napier Andrews** (Sc 59), **Alistair Shaw** (Sc 59), his brother **Angus Shaw** (Sc 61), **Richard Bailey** (Sc 60) and others whilst on lockdown in the Dordogne. He is also in regular contact with **Roger Bamborough** (D 60) with whom he worked for over 30 years.

Mirosevic Sorgo (N 49) spent Christmas in Sweden visiting his daughter Isabell and her family,

blissfully unaware of the imminent pandemic - so much so that he and his daughter travelled on to Bangkok for ten days and only just got home before the lockdown. **Peter Suddards** (S 52) reports that he has lost two close friends in the last year, Gerald Dent, an ex- School Governor, and **Neil Slingsby** (D 53). Luckily Peter and his wife managed to spend two happy days with Neil and his wife Penny during their visit in January. Peter has also managed to reactivate his friendship with the Revd **Clive Boddington** (S 54) and **Rab Peck** (S 53).

Ivo Videnov (Ldr 13) writes to say he is still working for Kraft

Heinz in London but decided to return home to Bulgaria for the lockdown. This has been his longest stint at home for 15 years. He says it has been wonderful reconnecting with friends and family, however he is missing his local London pub and pints of Norfolk Wherry Ale. **Magnus Weightman** (S 92) is living and working in Rotterdam with his German girlfriend and three young children (9,7 and 4). Home schooling has been more of a challenge for him and his partner as the children have apparently been exemplary. Magnus is an architect and urban designer, who also teaches at the Wageningen University and has two children's

books in print – *Welcome Home, Beaver!* and *All Along the River*, both available in the UK and selling well internationally - not a spare minute in the day, I suspect.

This summer **Peter Winnington** (S 63) brought out another book *Love in the Revolution*, recounting love affairs between Russians and Anglo Saxons at the time of the Russian revolution, which seems to have been well received by the critics. Lastly as always **Giles Woodbridge** (B 84) writes from the Alps to say their chalet business has been hit hard this spring by Corona but that they are hopeful that next season won't be as badly affected.

Hong Kong

Mark Reeves (C 80)

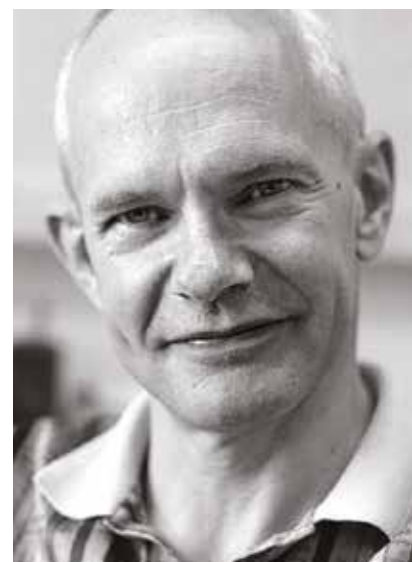
Andrew Nicholson (StA 99) writes: having welcomed baby Monty in November, to join siblings Alfie and Beatrice, my wife Victoria and I also recently celebrated our 10th wedding anniversary in June. I still work at PAG in Hong Kong, and also bumped into **Robbie Lawson** (StA 99) at the RWC semi-finals in Japan.

Jerry Yao (C 89) writes: for the whole world, 2020 will forever be remembered as the Year of Coronavirus. For me, though, it was a year of a life-changing experience not on a dissimilar level. Out of nowhere, I was diagnosed with necrotizing fasciitis (something I had known very little about) just before Chinese New Year. It was such a terrible ordeal that the only consolation was that it felt like I was living in a parallel universe where I didn't have to fight for facemasks and toilet rolls. Luckily, after being hospitalized for five weeks and several operations and physiotherapy sessions later, I am almost as good as new. I was planning on catching up with old Crosbians **Guy Hodgson** (C 89) and **Kar-Binh Ong** (C 89) in London in late January but my sudden illness

forced me to postpone everything. Perhaps that will happen in 2021 when hopefully the world, especially London, will be a safer place. During the year, I was very pleased to hear from **Julian Brown** (C 89) who finally got round to using Facebook Messenger - I had sent him a bunch of old photos taken during our first year at Oundle through that app. Julian had been busy working in Ho Chi Minh City for the whole of March before returning to the UK.

Ben Dickinson (N 93) remains in Hong Kong with his family. Despite the lockdown Ben is in regular touch with **Fuad Abdullah, Oliver Quarmby, Andy Appleby** (All Sdn 93) and **Dave Williams** (Ldr 93) who have had semi regular Zoom calls to catch up. He's also been in touch with **Angus Slater** (N91) and **Tim Robinson** (St A 95) in Hong Kong as well as reconnecting with Mark Steed (ex New House tutor!) who is now based in the city.

Ronald Taylor (Sn 62) writes: as for all of us, 2020 has not been as expected at the beginning of the year. However, before the turmoil, we celebrated our golden wedding on an enjoyable cruise of the South Pacific



out from, and back to, Sydney. It must have been one of the last 'normal' cruises before the shut down. Our second cruise, down the Danube, for later in the year has been postponed until next year. We have opted to stay in Hong Kong during the hot summer where we have felt much safer and under fewer restrictions than had we been, as planned, in England at our second home. A milestone will be marked later this year when our eldest grandchild starts at St Anthony.

Jeremy Pong (Ldr 83) has a relatively quiet year, partially due to not being able to travel due to the pandemic. He exchanged Chinese New Year's greeting with **Faisal**

Ibrabim (Ldr 84) and found out he is now a proud grandfather! Jeremy passed his module 4 exam at the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators before Christmas 2019 and is now a fellow of the Institute.

I met up with **Mark Stevenson** (N 81) for several beers in November last year during the brief visit he made to Hong Kong. Among other things, we bemoaned running injuries. He is undergoing knee surgery in 2020 to get back on track. Mark is now living

just outside Washington DC after spending a number of years in Hong Kong, Beijing and Thailand. He was staying with **Jeremy Bolland** (D 79) whom I regularly see and with whom I had a golf day with **Tim Linton** (Sn 63) earlier in 2019. Tim continues to fanatically play golf (having deliberately bought a retirement house near to the Fanling Golf Club) and competed in this year's Captain, Lady Captain and Pro competition in June after being kept off the golf

course in March during one of Hong Kong's partial lockdowns. I clocked a 4 mins 46 sec 1500 m in the Malaysian Veterans Championships in June 2019 before my own knee injuries took me out. With COVID, the athletics tracks in Hong Kong have been closed and we are now supposed to run outside with masks on, an impractical challenge both for the mask and your lungs. Let's hope by this time next year things will be a little bit more normal.

Japan

Dominic Al-Badri (N 88)

James Reynolds (C 01) writes to say that he has been living in Tokyo since December 2016 with his wife and two boys (aged 4 and 6) where he continues to run a video licensing business with a focus on major natural events. He says this has meant traveling around the Asia Pacific and to the US filming hurricanes, typhoons and volcanic eruptions. James is enjoying life in Tokyo, especially the challenge of learning Japanese, and plans to be here for the foreseeable future.

Despite Brexit, which had no direct effect on my position, I remain busy working for the Delegation of the European Union to Japan. Last year was hectic but extremely fulfilling overseeing the EU's participation in many parts of the G-20 process, which Japan hosted. In the autumn,

Arthur Marment (D 77) got in touch ahead of his visit to Japan for the Rugby World Cup and we met up for a tremendous dinner along with his son **George** (B 12) and Arthur's friend Kevin Hadley; a great outcome thanks to the OO network.

Away from the office, I have enjoyed the shift to a partial teleworking environment following the COVID-19 outbreak. Not having to commute by bicycle everyday freed up evening time that I was unexpectedly able to use DJing at a pop-up café Japanese friends started operating at around the time the disease flared up. Given the disease outbreak was at the time comparatively less severe in Japan than in many parts of the world, helping out in a café, while observing social distancing and undertaking



other safety precautions, was not the risky venture it might have been elsewhere, and helped justify my ever expanding record collection. I keep in regular contact with **Charlie Brookes**, **Adrian Corker** and **Marko Wilkinson** (all N 88), who are in good spirits and health, with lengthy Skype sessions during the lockdown and in person meet-ups when back in the UK.

Thailand

Iditorn Israsena (B 06)

We are happy to announce that two Old Oundelians from the class of 2006 got married at the beginning of the year. In January we enjoyed a wonderful ceremony from **Kanate Ratapipat**,

(G 06), which many Old Oundelians from the region and a few from the UK attended. Next, in February, there was an equally warm reception from **Sakaruth Sangkaew** (L 06). The event was attended by many



◀ local Old Oundelians in Thailand. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 situation, many overseas guests

were not able to attend, but many were able to send Sakaruth their best wishes through VDO clips. All of the

OO members in Thailand are safe and hoping to arrange a local gathering once the situation improves.

USA Region

Richard Kunzer (G 90)

As I am sure has been mentioned numerous times this year we have been living in very strange times, and none more than here in the USA where initially in the spring the North East was hit hard, and then sadly the rest of the country was stricken.

It is 16 years now that I have been living in Manhattan, but since early March we have been living out on the east end of Long Island where my wife and I have been enjoying the trials and tribulations of home schooling an 11-year old and a 7-year old! We cannot complain at all, but it has meant that we are not undertaking our annual summer trip to the UK to see family up in Northumberland, and not really sure when travel might resume. Instead we have been keeping up with family and friends by social media and calls and this has included brothers **Stephen Kunzer** (G 84) and **David Kunzer** (G 85), cousin **Charlie Houlton** (Sch 85) and friends **Jonnie Davis** (S 90), **James Shannon** (G 90) and **Huw Thomas** (G 90). Huw has been right in the thick of it as a doctor at St. Thomas' Hospital in London.

Across the USA the feedback from the OOs has been that they are all waiting to the end of the crisis to see what the new normal will be.

Derek Osborne (Sn 60) has nothing new to report from Austin, TX these days, other than wishing the rest of the stateside OOs the best of British as we all outwait the virus.

Peter Reddaway (Lx 57) – has been keeping in touch with his good friend from Laxton, **Duncan Noel-Paton** (Lx 57) and they were set to meet up for a few days this summer in Sussex but obviously that has been put on hold. He lives at home in McLean, VA, a suburb of Washington

DC, happily with his wife Betsy and they have four children and seven grandchildren.

David Weeks (C 83) has been living in the Atlanta, GA metro area for six years in Milton. His youngest son is about to leave the nest and go to Iowa State University (near where they used to live), and his two other children are doing well. This year he made contact with OO Andy McCartney who lives nearby, and they hope to get together at some point soon having discovered they are both in the Tech/IT Industry. He is keen to connect with other OOs in the southeast USA, or to be a contact for OOs looking to come to the US from the UK into either the IT or Healthcare industry. Finally, at the Oundle 'Day at the Races' in Newmarket last year he connected with **John Wilkinson** (N 82)

Rosalind "Lindy" Kew Womack (D 94) - Lindy hasn't updated her status with Oundle School in a while. She was only there for a year from 1993-1994, as a gap year between high school in the US and university in Scotland and was in Dryden the first year the house was open as a girls' house. Previously she had stayed on the housemaster's side as a guest of the Florys who were good friends of her grandmother (the matron in the Berrystead in the 1970s).

Since leaving Oundle, she got a degree in biochemistry at the University of St Andrews, then medicine at the University of Glasgow, then moved back to the US for postgraduate medical training. Her husband is an army officer, so they have lived all over the US. They recently moved back to his hometown of Nashville, Tennessee to be near family and raise their two girls. She

works in family medicine and he will be retired after 20 years in the service as of this autumn. Lindy has fallen out of touch with friends from Oundle, but would love to hear from any of them (she is Lindy Kew Womack on Facebook).

Charles Edward Stewart Patrick (Sc 56) is now retired, and living in Walnut Creek, CA in the East Bay Area of San Francisco. He has been married to his second wife for over 30 years now. One of his sons also lives on the West 'Left' coast and was formerly an astronaut with NASA and flew to the Space Station twice. His son now works for the private space company, Blue Origin, set up in Seattle by Jeff Bezos of Amazon and they expect to do their first manned suborbital flight soon. Both of his wife's daughters live in Oregon, including the mother of 8-year-old boy/girl twins. She is married to an Oxonian she met in London while on assignment with BP and Charles plays online chess with his grandson who is good! Despite being in a wheelchair now Charles just got an electric scooter for outdoor work which has a top speed of about 6 mph, and a range of 12 miles, so he scoots to most of his appointments. Whilst at Oundle he sang and a few years ago he joined Valley Concert Concert Chorale in the East Bay of San Francisco which sings some fine music, both classical and modern.

Greg Diltz (S 69) – is now 70, retired 17 years from his emergency paramedic occupation of 28 years and he also just reached his 30th year selling cellular phones and 2-way radios and pagers. His children are grown and he has five grandchildren... all living close by, which is a joy and blessing. He still likes going to their store each day...mostly for

paperwork, while his wife, Julie, has her own store a few blocks away. Luckily neither has been devastated by COVID, although they live in a tourist destination (Door County, WI). He still takes a 5-6 mile morning bike ride each day and, boat on the waters of Green Bay afternoons, evenings, and weekends, as weather permits. Normally they spend time in a warmer climate in February or March going to Florida or Arizona, but, this year will remain at home. He is enjoying the “throw back” pictures people are posting, and intends to do the same from his exchange year in 68-69 (Sydney). He tells his children that school was somewhat like Downton Abbey and he would be keen to hear from all his housemates.

Timothy Fenderson (Sn 80) is a principal at Maranatha High School, Pasadena CA in the Los Angeles area and considers his time at Oundle to be the most influential in his life.

Chris Close (D 82) continued to develop his real estate business. After he sold his company he became General Manager of Sears Home Improvement and continued his construction career which is his first love. With the demise of large retail stores in the US, Chris moved back to owning his own business and created a home improvement company and is happily working building homes in San Antonio, Texas. Christian, his eldest son, graduated from UT Austin and has spent the last two years teaching in Alaska. Sarah graduated from Univ of Incarnate Word and is working on her doctorate - and got married and had a baby too - so they are finally grandparents. Cameron is in his third year at Boston University studying medicine and David is in his second year at UT studying Law. Chris' wife, Betty, continues to run the Project Management division for Andersen Windows and loves working from home, and his parents, Tony and Rosemary, whom many OOs will remember, are alive and kicking and fully retired in Princes Risborough, Bucks.

John Trask III (Ldr 82) still resides in Beaufort, SC and is in the real estate business. He has been communicating with **Kazim Gurel**

(Ldr 83) and **Paul Fenby** (Ldr 82) and hopes to see them in their respective countries in the very near future when travel re-opens. His youngest child, Josephine, will be a fresher at TCU in Fort Worth, Tx. and is 18. Son Peter is 21 and living and working in Beaufort spending quality time in the woods and waters of the SC Lowcountry with John. Isabelle, 26, is making her way through the corporate world in Denver but still managing to get outside for some hiking and rock climbing. John has plenty of room at his house on Chowan Creek near Beaufort and would welcome visitors. Beaufort is where “Forest Gump” was filmed so that gives you an idea of its natural beauty and it is only about an hour from both Charleston and Savannah.

Rob Johnson (N 95). He and his family have been living in Boston, MA for eight years, but it's soon time to move back to the UK as his children are starting at Oundle in September, all being well and they will be living close by.

Another **Robert Johnson** (Bob) (LS 64) like everyone else over here, especially in the South, is hunkered down trying to avoid the pandemic and happily retired and living in South Carolina. The enforced break has given him the chance to get his novel published. There are plenty of Oundle area scenes in the book whose title is *On the Road to Midnight* – available on Amazon!

Nick Menzies (St A 71) moved to Southern California 17 years ago when his wife Melinda took up a tenured position teaching environmental studies at one of the Claremont colleges near LA. He found a job as Executive Director of the Asia Institute at UCLA, managing the university's non-curricular exchanges with Asia, mostly with China. He officially retired at the end of 2014, but has been active as a research fellow with the East Asian Gardens Research Center at the Huntington Library, Art Museum and Botanical Gardens just down the road in Pasadena. During that time he has been writing a book on the history of Chinese botany, has organized several conferences on botany and China and expects to keep

on doing the same for a couple more years.

John Seidler (Ldr 53) had a kidney transplant last October and the donor was his wife, Jane - what a fantastic token of love. He is doing quite a bit of writing and thanks Oundle for nurturing his creative abilities. He has written a comprehensive memoir, including his time at Oundle in the early 1950s and is currently writing a novel, based on genetics, covering a family over 500 years or 15 generations. An avid reader, he has read 50 books in the past year, plays the piano daily and still has weekly lessons! He is looking forward to a USA OO dinner when coronavirus allows.

Richard Horner (Ldr 04) and his family are well, and he opened a restaurant in New Orleans in January this year called Blue Giant. It has been successful and well received, although like all restaurants, it is challenging right now.

Alex Filhol (B 11) is living on the Eastern Shore of Maryland with his wife and two children and their dog. They just finished nine months or so of renovations on their house and so are glad to be back in.

Robert Nicholls (D 91) is starting his twenty-fifth year as Director of Music at First Presbyterian Church in Evansville, Indiana. Since 26 March he has performed weekly concerts on the church's instruments. These can be found on the YouTube channel First Presbyterian Evansville. His wife, Emma D. Nicholls, continues her work as a paediatric Clinical Psychologist and with her colleagues oversees an accredited Psychology intern program in Evansville. Their children Elena (15) and William (12) are entering 10th and 7th Grades at school.

Finally, the oldest corresponding OO in the USA, **Hugh Bowen** (S 43). He just had his 95th birthday on July 17th, and although his legs are not very good and he uses a pusher, everything else is still in good shape. He is presently writing another book but is sad that the Oxford and Cambridge Club in Denver, CO where he lives is no longer holding their usual dinners. ■

DAI BARNES



Charles Aldous (G 5) gives a pupil's view of 'a hero for the many':

Two years ago a timid, insecure and irrelevant child ventured into

Grafton. As I quietly stepped up the stairs, parents in pursuit, a narrow man of short stature enthusiastically embraced me. Attired in a colourful waistcoat, double-cuff white shirt, flannel trousers and a jolly jacket, he started leading me down the corridor. Immediately I began to notice the peculiar absence of his footwear. He played the guitar outside. He loved

debating politics. He hated the school phone rules. He walked barefoot. This man was Mr Barnes.

Some of my favourite memories go back to Third Form. I had the great honour of having him as my Deputy Housemaster for two years, and once, he was even kind enough not to give me back my exam grade. A friend of mine was once caught out of bed; instead of turning him in, he made him come round and say good-night to all the Sixth Form.

Mr Barnes was a motivator: a true intellectual force in a non-conformist's body. Another fond memory was our House paintball trip. With the shrieking wind flying over the snow-clad battlements, there was only one man whose veins were bursting with excitement. I could only recognise

him by the absence of shoes. Leaping forward at the sound of the whistle, he viciously engaged the enemy. He was rather perturbed not to find us engaged in quite the same spirit. He even found me hiding in the toilet!

When I heard the news of his passing - shock, disbelief and sadness gripped me. My friends did not believe me. Crying inside, I told them. Mr Barnes was a hero for the many. He cared for everyone. From his bright demeanour to his funny jokes, he will be sorely missed. However, his acts of kindness will live on. He loved, and understood. He respected, not disrespected. He taught: he explained, not confused. He led and never followed. He helped others when some dared not. He was and will forever be Mr Barnes.

MARIANNE KERR

From Caitriona O'Brien's eulogy at Marianne's memorial service in the Chapel:

It's impossible to distill the life of someone as active and energetic as Marianne. Instead, I'm going to talk about three strands in her life: education, sport and love.

Education was in the family genes. Her older brother was a school Inspector and her sister a headmistress. Not content just to educate children, Marianne was keen to expand her own understanding, and gained a Masters in Child Development while Housemistress of New House. Towards the end of her career, she looked beyond the curriculum at the importance of well-being and happiness, and devised a new approach aptly called Learning for Life. Her career ended with a new initiative.

Marianne exuded energy. Always a respectable middle distance runner, she then turned to long distance, winning the Bristol half marathon in 1985. That year she also entered the New York marathon with the realistic ambition of achieving a sub 3 hour time, but succumbed to a strange

illness that caused her to throw up almost every mile.

She completed the event but was both disappointed

and puzzled by her failure to run the race she had trained for. The reason was Bridie! Marianne had no idea that she was pregnant.

She arrived at Oundle in 1997 as Head of Girls' Games at a time when PE teachers were on a lower pay scale, and she fought to ensure that sport was properly regarded. As Housemistress, woe betide any girl who tried to pull a sickie on a Games afternoon! Marianne was terrier-like in encouraging every girl to enjoy competitive sport - and she led by example: her own fitness was legendary. Her death seems so unfair: as well as being so fit, she was a non-smoker and determined vegetarian.

Never missing an opportunity to go skiing, she persuaded less talented friends and colleagues to join her. She loved cycling, and when I railed against the pace she set on a 480-mile cycle from Mizzen Head to Malin, she gave me a verbal slap and told me to



embrace the challenge. Even towards the end of her illness, she still made exercise her priority. Following her second course of chemotherapy, she cycled everyone into the dust.

I was lucky that Marianne was my friend. Her kindness, support and humour have been a source of joy for twenty years. Since her death, I have been touched by the number of people in the town who have spoken about her with such warmth and feeling: she was deeply loved and respected. Teaching colleagues, New House staff, grounds staff, former pupils, current pupils, the local community - anyone who knew Marianne genuinely loved her. She was one big infectious smile who brought joy to everyone.

Bridie and Jack (both OOs) were a huge source of pride. That she got to know her two delightful grandchildren, Cormac and Skye, was a bonus. She was comforted, both physically and emotionally, in the last stages of her illness by her children - and how they looked after her was an affirmation that she was a fantastic mother.

As I look across the Chapel at you all, it is clear that Marianne was loved. That was her best accomplishment.

Obituaries

1937

JB Watson (D) died on 3 July 2019



His son Malcolm (D 66) writes:

John Watson has died, aged 99; he was one of the last to have completed his schooling in Old Dryden. Keeping in touch through reunions over the years, he was a great supporter of the Over 60s lunch. Attending five of the first six held with his son Malcolm, they remain the only father and son to have done so.

Born in Durban, South Africa, he returned with his parents to the East Riding of Yorkshire, aged four and a half. After school he joined his grandfather's firm of chartered surveyors in Kingston upon Hull and, on his nineteenth birthday the Territorial Army, Royal Artillery. Called up in June 1939, he never spent a night at home for the next six years. Employed initially in Home defence, he also served in the North Africa and Italian campaigns. He was discharged as a captain in December 1945 to rejoin his grandfather's firm, helping to deal with the war damage in Hull, the second most bombed city in the country after London.

In due course, he qualified as a member of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, later becoming a fellow, and a partner in the firm.

Marrying in 1946, three children followed but the marriage broke down in 1955; he remarried in 1963. He was elected chairman of the Yorkshire Branch of Chartered Surveyors in 1964 and was a respected member of the business community. The firm opened an office in London and he led a staff of 60 in four branches.

In 1969 he sought a more creative career in property development and they moved to North Yorkshire buying a large house with 30 acres in the village of Thornton-le-Beans. He designed and built houses there and in nearby Thirsk. Retiring in 1985, they moved to Ryde on the Isle of Wight, from whence his wife came.

Taking up painting as a hobby in retirement, he became a student in 1992 of the late Robert Lenkiewicz, the West Country's most celebrated artist in modern times, travelling frequently to his studio in Plymouth. He painted over 400 pictures in oils, many of yachting and island scenes, some of which were made into prints and sold widely, others he made into cards, of which 60,000 were sold over a ten year period. His proudest achievement was to see his oil painting of the Queen Mother's lying-in-State when guarded by her four grandsons, hanging in Black Rod's Office in the House of Lords. A print hangs in the School along with one of Johnny Wilkinson dropping the winning goal in the Rugby Union World Cup in 2003.

He had a golf handicap of five at the age of 18 and won the East Riding of Yorkshire squash championship in 1953. Later in life he took easily to computers and the internet, extolling their virtues to any of the elderly who would listen.

He is survived by his second wife, two sons (the other, **David (D 69)**) and a daughter. A granddaughter was also at the School: **Victoria Gale (N 02)**.

1938

DJ Parsons (S) died on 10 April 2020



His son Anthony (S 65) writes:

Born in Leicester, my father Derek entered Sidney in 1934 and recalled enjoying his time at Oundle, taught by celebrated members of staff including Arthur "Cabby" Marshall and R.B. Cordukes. Sporting potential was curtailed early on when he contracted iritis and lost his sight in one eye. This did not prevent him representing the House at shooting.

Derek was an enthusiastic member of the OTC and, before leaving Oundle, was commissioned into the Territorial Army (Leicestershire Regiment). On leaving Oundle in 1938, he joined the family law firm in Leicester. When war was declared, he was initially deployed to a Territorial Searchlight unit defending air stations in Lincolnshire. In 1942 he was transferred to 2nd Field Regiment, Royal Artillery and, after training at Larkhill, joined the 2nd Survey Regiment, engaged in locating enemy artillery fire.

In January 1943, Derek married Valerie Shipp, also from a Leicester

family, but married life came to an abrupt halt when he embarked from Liverpool in April on MV Britannic, destination Bombay. After crossing India, and jungle training in Ranchi, the final destination was Imphal where, between March and June 1944, the 14th Army found themselves cut off and surrounded by three Japanese Divisions. They held their own thanks to RAF air superiority and supplies by air. The famous Allied success at Kohima prevented a fourth Japanese division from approaching Imphal, which was eventually secured and relieved. Derek always felt he probably owed his life to those who had secured Kohima.

At the conclusion of war in the Far East, Derek returned to England in March 1946 with no qualifications and no idea what to do except that, after years in the open, he did not want to pursue his law career! Instead, he accepted an opportunity to join the Bowater Paper Corporation, headquartered in London, and this led to a successful career. He concluded as Director of PR before retiring to Dorset in 1982.

Derek's life in retirement was active, with responsibilities as Treasurer of both his church PCC, and the local Conservative branch. He was a committee member, then Chairman, of the Golden Cap centre of the National Trust. Arriving at one of the Golden Cap committee meetings, sporting his O.O. tie, a fellow committee member (now President), **Chris Walliker** (Sn 54), was delighted to note their shared history! Derek also took up golf and painting in retirement and was a regular attendee at the Southwest OO lunches.

Valerie predeceased him in 2016 and Derek spent his last three years happily in a Dorset care home. He celebrated his 100th birthday with 40 family and close friends in Poundbury village hall and was on great form. Soon after, his health failed and he died peacefully, fortunately spared from Covid 19.

Derek is survived by his son Anthony, daughter Jane, half-brother Peter, three granddaughters and three great grandchildren.

JR Sturgis (Ldr)
died on 24 September 2019



The following obituary is taken from The Telegraph:

Major John Sturgis, of the Royal Marines, who has died aged 99, was promoted in the field on D-Day, June 6 1944.

At 06:45 on June 6, the “diabolical little boats”, the landing craft carrying 41 Commando, Royal Marines, slewed by the rising tide, grounded some 200 yards out to sea on Red Sector of Sword Beach, 300 yards from their designated landfall.

Wading ashore under fire, the marines were off the beach within 10 minutes when a mortar bomb landed among a group of officers convened for orders, killing or injuring them all.

Aged only 24, Sturgis suddenly found himself promoted to acting captain and took over B Troop. As a hailstorm of bullets rained down, he was ordered to lead an attack on a heavily defended château.

Under fire from snipers and machine-guns, Sturgis led his marines in a flanking movement. Soon after 10:20 he sent the codeword, Trout, meaning that he had contacted the adjacent South Lancashire regiment.

By 11:40 he had pushed ahead to a crossroads, where B Troop came under more heavy fire from mortars and a mobile gun. Then his own mortars ran out of ammunition and he was pinned down. A stalemate persisted until the Germans counter-attacked on Sturgis's left flank. By 13:30, 41 Commando withdrew to the road, which was more easily defensible. Some 140 men were killed, wounded or missing, including seven officers.

The next day, 41 Commando occupied Lion-sur-Mer, and over

the next two weeks besieged the fortifications around a German radar station at Douvres-la-Délivrande. Finally, early in the evening of June 17, Sturgis, supported by tanks and smoke, led his troop through the barbed wire.

By 18:30, the Germans – dazed, shocked or frightened into surrender – came out with their hands up: the “bag” totalled five officers and 222 other ranks. Roaring with laughter, Sturgis recalled finding “deep in the emplacement a wardrobe containing a row of dresses together with high-heeled shoes. How kinky can you get?”

Two days later Sturgis crossed the Orne and then, on August 17, the Seine. He took part in much of the fighting of that winter, including, in November, being deafened during the storming of the strategically significant island of Walcheren, when a mortar bomb exploded 10 yards away, killing his quartermaster sergeant and badly wounding his batman.

Sturgis was awarded the MC and Mentioned in Despatches.

John Russell Sturgis was born in London on August 2 1920 and educated at Oundle before joining the Royal Marines on the outbreak of war. After training, his first seagoing appointment was as “Joe” (the junior RM officer) in the cruiser Manchester during the hunt for the Bismarck in May 1941, and later in the Mediterranean for Operation Substance, the first of the relief convoys to Malta.

On July 23 he was stationed high in the superstructure, with a grandstand view as Italian torpedo-bombers “came in quite low. I saw these two torpedoes coming towards us; they produced a little stream of bubbles so I could follow them exactly.

“One was clearly a miss but the other, I thought, was just going to miss the stern, when suddenly wrooom – it was a pretty desperate situation.” Manchester, hit in an engine room and with only one propeller, withdrew to Gibraltar, while Sturgis helped to pull from the wreckage some of the men who had been killed: many of them were marines he knew.

He celebrated his 21st birthday in Gibraltar while Manchester was undergoing temporary repairs.

Next, he served two years in the battleship HMS Warspite, joining her in the US and witnessing fierce fighting in the Indian Ocean, the capture of Madagascar, and the Allied landings in Italy, before joining the Royal Marines Special Service Group in April 1944.

Postwar he served in Cyprus, Malta, South Africa and Malaya before leaving the Royal Marines in 1962. The Sturgises moved to South Africa, where in 1964 in Cape Town they developed CapeScot Developments.

They were keen sailors, owning a Hobie Cat in South Africa, and, after they returned to England, a Westerly at Aldeburgh. They were also enthusiastic skiers, and Sturgis fished the Itchen in Hampshire: at 96 he was pictured in Trout and Salmon magazine as Britain's oldest angler.

Sturgis married, in 1953, the sculptor Rosie Wilks, who survives him with their two sons.

Like many others, Sturgis, a man of modesty and good humour, was appointed to the Légion d'honneur for his actions on D-Day; he accepted reluctantly, as he felt he had done nothing special to deserve it.

1940

AL Shacklock (St A)
died on 21 July 2019

Len had many happy memories of his time at Oundle from 1936 through 1940. He enjoyed many sports but only got his house colours for rugby!

After leaving school, Len had training for six months at British Oxygen Company. He then volunteered for the Royal Air Force however was declared unfit for air crew. He settled for as close as he could get, a Flying Control Officer at operational training units both with Wellingtons and Mosquitos. Len was able to arrange many flights, official and not, with both of these aircraft.

He served overseas through Australia, ending at Balikpapan in Dutch Borneo, immediately after the last major battle of WWII. He completed his service with a number of projects based both in Singapore and Kuala Lumpur. One task included the

use of a Sunderland to survey suitable landing water inlets, (hopefully mine free) up the West and East coast of Malaya. On many occasions his crew were the visitors after the Japanese left. Len returned home in 1946.

After leaving the Air Force, Len rejoined British Oxygen Company for nine years, then decided the future for his wife and their two boys was in Canada. Luckily, he filled a need and was transferred to the Canadian company.

Over the next 15 years, Len had the task of managing three companies, (Ottawa, Vancouver and Belleville, Ontario) that had been bought out by his parent company. He also became involved with a group developing the latest techniques in the manufacturing and insertion of medical implants. (hips, shoulders, etc.)

After five years of operation, his division was bought out by a USA company but he was not included! Len was then appointed Director of Human Resources for the Canadian operation. He retired in 1986 and was recognised for 44 years of service with the group.

Len is survived by his loving wife, Brenda and son Mike, and predeceased by son Peter and their mother, Olive.

Len was active, mentally and physically, until the end of his life.

RA Sladden (Sc)
died on 8 September 2019

1941

DAF Jackson (St A)
died on 12 June 2019



His son Andrew (St A 73) writes:
Our father, Donald, died recently at

the fine age of 95. Born in 1923, into a family of textile manufacturers near Huddersfield, west Yorkshire, he arrived in St Anthony in 1937, the days of 'Bud' Fisher, 'Tub' Shaw and headmaster Sammy Squire. He left Oundle in 1941, having enjoyed playing cricket and rugby for the School, and taken part in enough scrapes and antics to regale us with stories for many years.

At the age of 18, he enlisted in the RAF and trained as a pilot. During the war, he flew Bristol Beaufighters, a cross between a bomber and fighter plane. Active service took him to the Middle East, the Adriatic, the jungles of Burma (now Myanmar) and to north Africa, where he regularly flew up and down the length of the river Nile.

When demobbed, he returned home to study textiles at Leeds University. He then joined the family firm, Field & Bottrill, in Skelmanthorpe, making 'plush' cloth for teddy bears and the fashion trade.

He married Shirley Kaye, daughter of a Huddersfield solicitor, and settled down to a busy yet peaceful family life. My brother **Edward** (St A 70) was born in 1952; myself, **Andrew** (St A 73), in 1955.

By the late 1960s, competition from cheaper imported cloths made business very tough and, like many other Yorkshire mills at that time, the family was forced to sell the company.

Following a trip to Australia to visit friends and relations, he then started his own business, acting as an agent, exporting textile cloth and other various products Down Under.

During this period, his marriage ended in divorce and his regular visits to Australia resulted in his meeting and eventually marrying his second wife, Felicity. When he retired, they moved from Huddersfield to Red Hill, on the Mornington Peninsula, south of Melbourne.

In retirement, he was far from idle. Prior to leaving Yorkshire, he'd begun a project to research the history of the Jackson family, before internet ancestry sites made such things easier. The result was a book detailing the lives of our ancestors, ▶

◀ about the history of the mill in Skelmanthorpe and the wider context of the textile industry in the West Riding of Yorkshire.

At the age of 90, he was delighted and honoured to become an Australian citizen. He always retained a great affection for Australia, the country and its people. For all that, he remained a proud Yorkshireman. He was a keen supporter of Huddersfield Town FC, and whenever the Ashes were being played for, it could only ever be England.

1942

SY Dawbarn (Sc)
died on 29 June 2019

1943

CM Astley (St A)
died on 12 December 2019



His son, Jonathan, writes: Michael Astley died peacefully in his sleep, five days short of his 95th birthday. He was unused not to achieving goals, but his disinterest in the celebration of personal achievements means that this too was a success.

Michael was born on the 17th December 1924, in Coventry, to

Florence and Norman. Educated initially in Coventry; his mother wrote in her diary on Michael's first day at school, "hated it!" More advanced challenges followed with increasing vigour at Oundle, where he excelled in science, and then to university, where Michael attended Hertford College, Oxford and latterly, Cambridge.

War interceded and Michael spent time with the Royal Corps of Signals in Burma. Recuperating from dysentery at the end of the war, he learnt to sail at the Nainital Yacht Club in India.

Sailing would become a massive passion. Initially Michael sailed in Merlins before moving into the Finn class. The family house is littered with various trophies won in races all over the world. Sadly, despite securing a place as part of the two man Finn Olympic team, a knee ligament injury prevented him from competing at the 1964 Tokyo Olympics. Instead he played his part as one of the team managers.

Gliding was the next dedication. The technical aspects of this sport appealed greatly and led to Michael aspiring to become the best pilot he could be. Not satisfied with the limitations of gravity, and the inevitability of 'landing-out', he studied for and gained his private pilot's licence. This allowed him to spend many hours aloft in his glider with an engine. Ever concerned for others, Michael used his engineering skills to invent and manufacture a safety device used when launching gliders. This device is still used in gliding clubs throughout the world.

Florence, his mother, had been an accomplished concert pianist and violinist, and this rubbed off on Michael. Classical music was a huge part of his life. He was an excellent pianist and played oboe for a time in the Warwickshire Symphony Orchestra. Later in life, chamber music would be a regular obsession with various groups put together and new friendships made.

Michael took over the family business after his father's unexpected death in 1958. The business benefitted from many aspects

of Michael's many practical and technical skills, seeing him design and commission new equipment that aided the manufacturing processes undertaken by various departments of the business at the time.

After Michael retired from business, he was able to dedicate himself to transforming his prized gardens, taking on their maintenance, single-handed, well into his nineties. His keen interest in wildlife took him into expanding his study of moths, photographing and cataloguing many hundreds of species and their distribution, before releasing the insects.

Following hospitalisation for sepsis at the end of 2018, Michael's last year was a gradual decline, during which time he was able to do less.

He is survived by Jeannette, his wife of 55 years, his three sons and five grandchildren.

PJ Bell (S) died on 1 June 2019

JC Hanscomb (S)
died on 14 February 2019



His daughter Lindsay writes: John Collins Hanscomb CBE MA Cantab, a true gentleman, kind, stoic and thoroughly decent, was born in Bolton in 1924. Educated at Bolton School and Oundle before joining the RAF where he served as a Spitfire fighter pilot during the war. He graduated from Emmanuel College Cambridge in 1949 with an MA in modern languages, achieved

a half-blue in athletics (pole-vault) and played rugby and cricket to the highest level for his college. His successful career in the steel foundry business was complemented by his tireless local authority involvement and he was first elected as Councillor in the borough of Bolton in 1964 becoming leader of the Conservative Group and the Council Leader in 1972. As chairman of the 'shadow' Authority he went on to become chairman of the re-organised Metropolitan Borough of Bolton in 1973 and transitional mayor the following year. He was a leading member of the Town twinning committee where his linguistic skills came to the fore. He joyously took up flying for pleasure again, gaining his private pilot's licence in 1981. Whilst Mayor in 1982, he undertook a series of aerial photographs of Bolton, saving the Council considerable money when the pictures were used in the 4th edition of the town guide. Other achievements include serving as part-time chairman of the North West Gas Consumers' Council for three years from 1982. He continued until 1994 as leader of the Conservative group and retired when boundary changes took place in 2004 becoming, and being recognised for his service as an honorary Alderman. He was awarded a CBE in December 1980 for his tireless work in politics and in 1982 became the ceremonial Mayor of Bolton. At leisure he enjoyed hugely spending time fishing in the highlands of Scotland with his son and daughter.

He had two children, daughter Lindsay who has a successful career in marketing and advertising, and a son, Dr Nicholas Hanscomb, who was a gifted scientist and helped to discover and develop DNA testing. He followed him to both Oundle School and Emmanuel College where he achieved an Honours degree. Tragically he was murdered while innocently walking home after attending the Notting Hill Carnival in 1991, aged just 38. A fund was instigated at Emmanuel College, Cambridge his memory which continues to this day to help others less fortunate.

1944

HF Booth (N) died on 15 June 2019



This death was recorded in last year's magazine without an obituary. We are pleased to include one this year. **His daughters, Jill and Sally write:** Harold Fred Booth, known as Tubby from the age of 15, was a truly wonderful, inspiring family man, an honourable gentleman and a dear friend to many that he met along the journey of his 92 years.

Tubby was born on 13 May 1927. His parents lived in Manchester, where he grew up with his older brother Clifford. His father opened a family business 'Booth's Borough Bakery' which became very successful and enabled his parents to send him to Oundle. Essentially a working class lad, he didn't actually enjoy his time at school where he was bullied by other boys because of his accent. However, after he left and in his later years he became incredibly proud of his time there and recognised its role in making him a successful entrepreneur.

Whilst at Oundle he took his 'School Certificate' – and failed it! This meant he then had to go on to Technical College to play catch up, whilst there he met the woman who became his wife – Liz. He subsequently became a master baker joining the family bakery until it

closed in 1968. He then became a very successful salesman and was well regarded across the professional world in which he operated. Tubby and Liz had three children and in their later years moved to be nearer to them, their grandchildren and great grandchildren.

He was proud to be a member of the Old Oundelians and in 2016 we had the pleasure of joining him at a gathering in Newcastle hosted by **Charlie Hault** (Sc 85). He was fascinated to meet the young people there and regaled them with stories of how, during his time at Oundle, they had to break the ice on their baths before washing – helped on by a master who would 'dunk' them under to make sure they got totally wet!

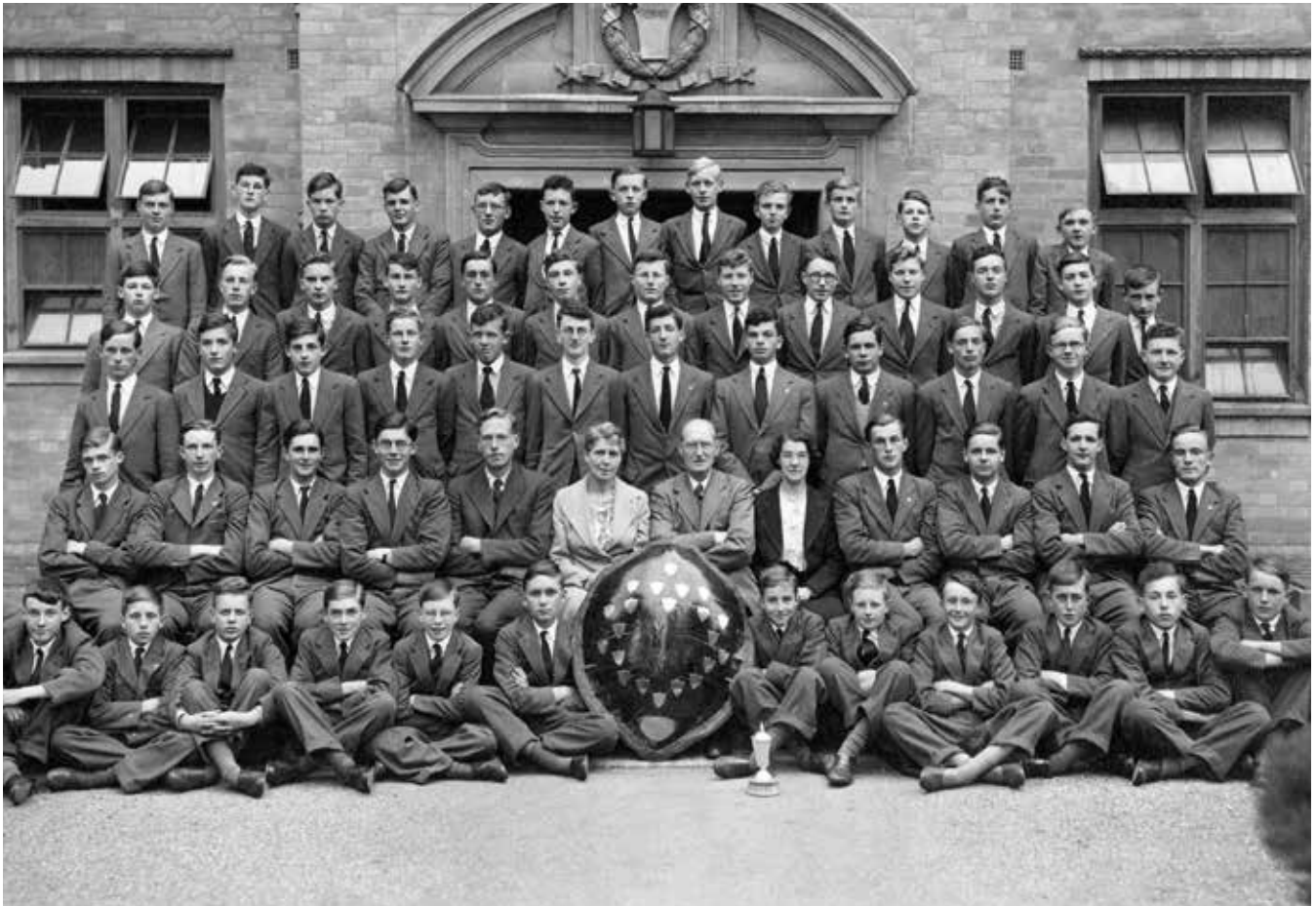
Tubby became ill in the winter of 2018 and had a mercifully short illness but he kept his sense of fun throughout and all the medical staff took a shine to him – even his consultant who gave him a bottle of whisky!

He died on 15th June 2019 and is very much missed by both of us and everyone who knew him. His Oundle experiences, of which he was so proud, helped make him the man he became, who always made such a lasting impression on people. ▶

1946

CT Heinlein (Sn)

died on 19 November 2019



His son, Carl Heinlein (Sn 83) writes:

Carl Trevor Heinlein passed away at 91 years young. He was peaceful, and surrounded by family. Carl was born in Sheffield, to Regina and Carl Heinrich Heinlein.

He went to Oundle from 1941 to 1946. He loved his time at the school. The focus on hands-on learning and the school workshops truly satisfied his inquisitive mind. At our family dinner table, he would frequently recount stories of Oundle with great fondness. He looked back very fondly on his years at the School, and would always take an opportunity to drive via Oundle on a journey home, or drop in to remember old days.

After Oundle, Carl spent several years working at Cosmocord, manufacturing microphones and pick-up cartridges. He then attended Cambridge University, before joining Fergusson for a few years, working on

television development. He was a very accomplished man and, while there, was granted several design patents, and also started working with those new-fangled things called transistors!

Then, in 1957, he and his wife, Wynne, started their own company, CTH Electronics. They were initially in Hoddesdon, but their growth and success soon meant that they had to move to a bigger, new facility in St. Ives, Cambridgeshire.

Over the next thirty years, he designed, developed and built a range of cutting-edge electronic communications equipment that had not been seen before – and much of CTH equipment can still be seen in use some fifty years later – it was built to last! He was an early member and President of the Association of Public Address Engineers and, in 2001, he was honoured to receive a Lifetime Achievement Award

from the Institution of Sound and Communication Engineers.

Wynne and Carl met while they were both working for Cosmocord and were married in 1951. It was a wonderful match, as they were married for just four days shy of 68 years. They had two children, Caryn and Carl.

Family and friends have lost the most wonderful husband, father, grandfather and friend – the kindest, most caring and loving man. He was always calm in a drama, full of humour, totally non-judgemental, and nothing was too much trouble for him, where encouraging, supporting or helping others was concerned. He went through the last few months with complete strength and courage; never a complaint or grumble was heard. Rest in peace, Carl, we miss you, remember you and love you always.

AR Morris (Sn)
died on 2 August 2019

1947

CR Clarke (Sc)
died on 8 February 2020

RS Hill (Sn) died on 11 August 2019



His son Philip (Sn 75) writes: Richard had a great education at Oundle which he always had fond memories of, so much so that he attended a number of reunions including a Berrystead one a few years ago where he said he recognised a number of faces but whether that was due to the number of bottles of wine consumed or that they were all wearing shorts, we shall never know.

Richard was a 1st team rugby player and golfer and continued both through his life and golf well into his 80s at Little Aston Golf Club Sutton Coldfield where he is still recognised as their longest playing member and played in a number of OO Golf Days held there.

He was a dedicated and successful businessman and along with his brother John (Sn 44) they ran a very successful iron foundry in West Bromwich. I was also proud to have worked with them for a few years in their land of molten metal, sand and

smog until the recession in the 80s got hold and business was sold.

When times got tough the company expanded into body building equipment to support flagging turnover. Richard was no marketeer but did have a sense of adventure (a great Oundelian trait), and my wife Pam and I found ourselves alongside Richard and Carole at Mr Nottingham body building contest selling barbell weights to well oiled bodies. Just for clarity Richard did not enter the Seniors competition as he didn't have any suitable trunks.

Even in his later years he was always in his element as the life and soul of the people around him wherever he was. He had the ability to keep everyone entertained.

He will be sorely missed by family and friends alike.

RH Lench (Sn)
died on 22 January 2020

HR Lines (Sc)
died on 28 January 2020



The following obituary is taken from The Times:

Richard Lines ... was the last survivor of Lines Brothers, which from 1919 made Tri-ang trucks, Rovex and Hornby trains, Scalextric racing cars, Meccano kits, Dinky Toys and Sindy dolls, at one time adding up to the world's biggest toy firm. In the 1930s it bought Hamleys

toyshop in Regent Street.

Like many British businesses, Lines struggled to live with US competition in the 1950s and 1960s. Richard, son of one of the three original Lines brothers, bore the brunt of the family's frenetic efforts to keep up.

To overcome postwar protectionism, the three brothers fatefully decided to build factories in their main markets, Canada, New Zealand, South Africa and Australia.

By 1961 Richard also had the uncommon job title "head of dolls" at Hamleys, to develop a UK rival to the American Barbie doll, which had revolutionised the market since its launch two years earlier. He walked down Regent Street asking girls to suggest a name and the winner was Sindy, "the doll you love to dress".

The next year he moved back to run the main factory in Merton, Surrey, but kept travelling to Australia, New Zealand, Russia and Japan, as well as the yearly Nuremberg Toy Fair.

Lines Brothers went into receivership in 1971, defeated by the constant US pressure.

Hugh Richard Lines was born in 1929 in Purley, near Croydon, son of Marjory and Arthur Lines. In 1937 he went to school at Rottingdean, near Brighton on the Sussex coast, which was evacuated to a bat-infested hotel in Padstow, Cornwall.

The headmaster taught Lines golf, which would become a lifelong passion.

With doodlebugs flying over the family home in Purley, Arthur and Marjory sent their son north to Oundle School. On leaving in 1947, he fulfilled an ambition to join the Royal Navy, but asthma led to his discharge after only a few weeks. His parents tried to make up for the disappointment by giving him a sailing boat for his 21st birthday.

When they threw a birthday party for Lines's sister Mary at the Savoy Hotel, Rosemary Truscott was invited to make up numbers. At the end of the evening Rosemary, the daughter of a lord mayor of London, left her nursing uniform behind in a suitcase that Richard

◀ rescued. They married in 1959 and their honeymoon was a tour of Lines factories in the antipodes. Rosemary and Richard had five children.

In 1970 he had tuberculosis diagnosed and stepped down from the board of Lines Brothers. He went back to Margate and was Hornby's public relations face until retiring in 1994. He contributed to several collectors' books and magazines.

CKW Schellenberg (St A)

died on 28 October 2019

The following obituary is taken from The Times:

When Keith Schellenberg woke up one morning in 1994 to find his prized 1927 Rolls-Royce Phantom burnt to a cinder, he realised that his dream of being the benevolent laird of Eigg had also gone up in smoke. The Inner Hebridean island was put up for sale, to the delight of most of its inhabitants.

Schellenberg's mission on Eigg was to create a thriving economy as a triumph of free enterprise. He began restoring buildings, attracted young families, established a ferry service to the mainland, 14 miles away, opened shops and boosted tourism. The population doubled to about 80.

Schellenberg had approached the venture with big-heartedness and romanticism. He claimed that he had invested heavily in it, but the dream turned sour. Tenants started complaining that promises to restore their cottages and issue long-term leases had been broken. Others described him as having undergone a King Lear-esque transformation, increasingly autocratic and capricious in the way that he ran the affairs of the island.

Clifford Keith Wain Schellenberg was born in Marton, Middlesbrough, in 1929 into a family with German roots; his ancestors settled in Britain in the 1860s. His grandfather had made a fortune from glue-making on Teesside, before his father, Clifford Robertshaw Schellenberg, brought more prosperity by producing gelatine needed for vital reconnaissance photography during the Second World War.

Keith attended Oundle School,

then entered the family business.

A natural salesman, he built up a client base of chocolatiers, including Rowntree's and Terry's of York. He did his National Service in the Royal Artillery in 1948-49, but not before he had formed a motorcycle display team during his officer training at Aldershot.

In the best traditions of amateur sport, Schellenberg segued from family skiing holidays in Switzerland to captaining the Britain bobsleigh team at the Winter Olympics in Cortina d'Ampezzo. Between high jinks in the evenings, he competed in the two-man and four-man events, finishing 11th and 12th. He would go on to compete in the men's singles, in the luge, at the 1964 Winter Olympics, finishing 25th, captain the Yorkshire rugby team and race powerboats.

In 1961 Schellenberg bought Nesham's, which operated dealerships for Ford in the north of England, and employed more than 250 people.

In the general elections of 1964 and 1966 he stood as a Liberal candidate in Richmondshire, one of the country's safest Conservative seats, driving around the rural constituency in his Bentley and towing a caravan in which to meet the voters.

Schellenberg's first wife was Jan Hagenbach, whom he married in 1957 and with whom he had two daughters: Sophie and Serena. The couple separated in 1962.

His second marriage, two years later, was to Margaret Udny-Hamilton, with whom he had a son, Nicholas and two daughters: Amy and Rosie, a documentary film-maker. They divorced in 1979. His third wife was Susan (Suki) Urquhart, whom he married in 1981 and divorced in 1994.

He is survived by his fourth wife, Jilly, whom he married in 2001 and who looked after him in his final years when he was suffering with Alzheimer's. He is also survived by two nephews, Charles and Alexander, whom he helped to raise after the early death of his sister, Joan.

1948

A Alvarez (C)

died on 23 September 2019



The following obituary is taken from The Times:

Al Alvarez lived dangerously. Not only did he take risks with poetry, introducing into his verse audacious rhymes and daring vocabulary, but he also gambled with his money, his career and his life. He played poker for high stakes, walked away from the security of academic tenure and turned his own suicide attempt into a bestselling study of the subject.

Alfred Alvarez was born in Bloomsbury, central London, in 1929, the youngest of three children of Bertie Alvarez, a Sephardic-Jewish dressmaker of declining fortunes, and his wife, Katie. His sisters were Anne and Sally. The family soon moved to Hampstead "because it was full of their kind of Jews — comfortably off and thoroughly anglicised", he wrote.

At Oundle School in Northamptonshire he acquired a taste for languages, boxing, rugby (he once played scrum half for Northampton), cold baths and, after a trip to north Wales, climbing. To his dismay, but his mother's delight, he was spared National Service because of a gammy ankle.

He had been writing poetry since 16 and as an undergraduate published poems in several periodicals. He took a first in English

at Corpus Christi College, Oxford, where he founded the Critical Society, explaining why criticism at Oxford was no good.

A prestigious Procter fellowship took him to Princeton University in New Jersey, where he became the youngest person to deliver the Christian Gauss lectures on literature. He settled well into the literary culture, discovering the strength of the American-Jewish community.

Back in Britain Alvarez rejected academia in favour of hell-raising and hedonism. For two “disastrous and improbable” years he was theatre critic of the *New Statesman* and in 1956 he began a ten-year stint as poetry editor of *The Observer*.

In 1956, after a seven-week romance, he had married Ursula Barr, the granddaughter of DH Lawrence’s widow, Frieda. Four years later Alvarez tried to take his own life. The marriage was a disaster and was dissolved in 1961, providing fertile material for *Life After Marriage: Scenes from Divorce* (1982). He was predeceased in 2016 by their son, Adam, a colourist and painter.

His second marriage, in 1966, was to Anne Adams, a Canadian child psychotherapist who as Anne Alvarez became a leading figure in her field. Anne survives him with their daughter, Kate, a creative director, and their son, Luke, a businessman.

In time, Alvarez, who for more than 30 years would walk, talk and giggle with his pianist neighbour Alfred Brendel, came to view his youthful brush with death as a catharsis, purging part of his past to enable him to live the rest of his life. “As for suicide, it is not for me,” he wrote. “Perhaps I am no longer optimistic enough. I assume now that death, when it finally comes, will probably be nastier than suicide, and a great deal less convenient.”

HV Blake (B)
died on 23 December 2019

JB Fenton (Sn)
died on 13 April 2020

NJ Hudson (Ldr)
died on 30 May 2019

MW Payne (S)
died on 10 February 2020

JEC Perry (S) died in November 2019

1949

RA Cadman (Sc)
died on 20 October 2019

JD Nathan (Sn) died on 17 April 2020
His son, Rod (Sn 73) writes:
My father, John Nathan, died peacefully in April aged 88. From the moment he arrived, immediately after World War II, to his dying day, he loved Oundle School and its people. He kept many friends from those days; of those closest to him he is survived by **Peter How (Sn 49)** and **Nigel Warshaw (Sn 49)**; and two who only recently went before him, **James Rubens (Sn 50)** and **Bob Mason (Sn 50)**, his best man.

Of the teachers, he remained close, to his Housemaster John “Hector” Matthews and his wife Win. Of his many memories of School the frozen winters of ‘46 and ‘47 and the peculiar bathing practices required were oft retold, however the crowning glory was taking the lead in the school play as Richard III.

Following Oundle he was awarded a scholarship by the English Speaking Union and spent a year at Choate school in Connecticut. He returned to do National Service in Vienna whilst it was still under four party control. On demob he took up a place at Trinity Hall, Cambridge but found that he had outgrown academia.

He started to work in the family textile business which he developed from being the representative of Yorkshire and Lancashire mills to the London trade into a global business from which he only finally retired aged 85.

An intrepid traveller who was visiting Ethiopia and Mongolia well into his 80s, a committed gastronome and theatrephile, we were still going out to theatres and wonderful dinners in February; he lived life for all it was worth. However, in this magazine I must finish with his lifelong connection to the School and its alumni. He lived and died a proud OO.

PM Wilson (Sc) died on 19 April 2020

1950

PWM Brettell (B)
died on 22 November 2018

JA Rubens (Sn)
died in 2019

1951

JC Athron (Lx) died on 25 June 2019

AJ Baden-Fuller (S)
died on 12 August 2017

RM Finn (Lx)
died on 20 September 2019

G Gargiulo (Ldr)
died on 2 December 2019

MF Spragg (Lx)
died on 1 January 2020. An obituary will appear in next year’s magazine.

1952

GA Hamburger (C) died in 2018

RE Jarrold (D)
died on 18 November 2019

R Potter (D) died in 2019

AL Thompson (Lx) died in 2016

1953

JM Barraclough (N)
died on 26 September 2019

CDT Minton (Lx)
died on 6 November 2019



◀ **Charles Allen (B 54) writes:**

Clive Minton arrived in Laxton in September 1947, as an Elected Scholar, shortly before his thirteenth birthday. Clive was not just a scholar but an active rugby player in winter and tennis player and cricketer in summer, sporting interests which he retained for the rest of his life. He was also already a keen birdwatcher, an early riser meticulously recording the birds and nests around the school and by the river. He was notorious for rescuing a damaged heron which he was permitted to keep for a while in the Old Chapel opposite Laxton which would ride around perched on the handlebars of his bike. His passion for birds and particularly coastal wading birds was to become the driving force of his life.

On leaving Oundle, Clive went to Queens College, Cambridge to read Metallurgy. Having completed his PhD in 1959, he joined IMI, the metals component of ICI.

He was transferred to Melbourne in 1978 as Managing Director of IMI Australia. In 1983, IMI decided to close their Australian business but Clive and his wife Pat chose to remain in Australia. He held several significant business positions before retiring from the executive world to concentrate on his primary calling, ornithology and specifically coastal wader research, a decision not only of lasting benefit to ornithology but to my wife and me, his best man.

During his time at Oundle, perhaps due to the strong science tradition in the school, bird ringing or banding became a major interest. Clive was the focus of a small team that banded birds around the school grounds and in the orchard behind the Old Chapel, banding as many birds as any team in Europe at that time.

In 1959 after completing his PhD and commencing his professional life in industrial research, Clive initiated his wader research, founding the Wash Wader Research Group (WWRG). At that time the waders on the Wash were caught at

high tide in lightweight fixed nets set like a wall across the mudflats. Particularly effective at night, the nets had to be cleared every few hours, not the easiest task especially in winter. Then also around that time, Clive approached another old Oundelian, Sir Peter Scott (1928?) at his Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust in Slimbridge, Gloucestershire. Sir Peter was using rockets to propel nets to catch geese for his studies. Smaller, lighter nets were becoming available and WWRG developed small cannons to propel the nets over waders roosting on seaweed or debris on the mud flats. This remains the primary catching method for waders today.

Among many honours, he was awarded the Bernard Tucker Medal, the John Hobbs Medal for Ornithology and in 2001 elected a Member of the Order of Australia. In 2012 he was awarded the Eisenmann medal by the Linnaean Society of New York.

Clive leaves his wife, Pat, of 60 years (still recovering from injuries received in the accident in which he died), two sons, Roger and Nigel and three grandsons.

1954

DH Barraclough (N)

died on 4 April 2019

J Davis (Sc)

died on 25 October 2019

PJW Humpidge (G)

died on 18 August 2019

1955

RJ Hewlett (Sn)

died on 8 October 2019

1956

MJ Allen (C)

died 8 January 2020

RB Charlton (S)

died on 23 May 2019

RSE Llewellyn (Sc)

died 1 September 2019



His brother Malcolm (Sc 60) writes:

Roger died after several years struggling with health.

Christened Roger Stewart Ewart half Scots and Welsh to remind him of his ancestry, he was born in London in 1939 and went immediately to Malaya at the start of our father's, **Alun Ewart (Ldr 24)** second 5-year tour as a mining manager/engineer.

Two years later with the Japanese invasion, mother and Roger with me in embryo escaped on a Dutch hospital ship and stopped off in South Africa for the duration of the war. Father was incarcerated in Changi prison for the next four years while his brother Hugh (Ldr 32) working with Borneo Shell was sent to Burma to build a railway. Roger never lived with his parents again and in fact his only return to Malaya until the parents retired in 1967 was for his 21st. Holidays were spent at a holiday home in Hampshire.

After Oundle, Roger did five years apprenticeship at Vickers Armstrong working on the SS Oriana, Hermes aircraft carrier and Dreadnought

nuclear subs followed by five years at Blue Circle Cement leaving as manager when the company closed Penarth factory. He disliked the poor attitude of group management and went off to run his own 'tube bending' companies until his death. For the last 40 years he with his wife Anne and two daughters lived at an old farm he was permanently restoring at Croxall close by the Arboretum where the lych gate from Changi prison now stands.

Oundle workshops, his guardian an R.E. Brigadier, VA were all considerable influences on a life of long hours of hard work, dedication to engineering and high standards. His interest in everything did mean some things had to wait. His main hobby was vintage cars which he had been collecting, mainly as boxes of parts, since he left school. Apart from the house, some car rebuilds he started on in the 1960s still wait completion. Lagonda club tours (even as far as the Dordogne) with Anne were a favourite pastime.

His contributions to School House were two years of House and School rowing crews, rugby second 15 and the high hurdles school record. The reason all four of us went to Oundle was that Captain Robert Falcon Scott suggested it to my grandfather in the Admiralty as his son Peter was destined for there.

GR Pike (N) died on 9 December 2019

1957

GA Jones (C) died in December 2019

1958

GB Rawlings (B)
died on 30 April 2020

1960

CR Buckley (D) died in October 2019

TV Higgins (Ldr)
died on 13 September 2019

RJ Parnham (LS) died in 2019

MR Underwood (Sn)
died on 15 September 2019

DL Wood (S)
died on 22 September 2019

1961

AN Herald (N)
died on 24 February 2019

NI Lesmoir-Gordon (B)
died on 10 January 2020

1962

WJ Howard (D)
died on 1 October 2019

JA Patrick (Ldr) died on 18 April 2020



Joseph Alexander Patrick was born in Bromsgrove in Worcestershire, the third child, after Heather and Andrew, of Joseph and Ruth Patrick, a prominent and well-known family in the Midlands. With the confusion of sharing the same first name as his father, he soon became known by his middle name, Alexander, or more commonly, "Alex". The family business was in the motor trade, enjoying considerable success as both a main dealer and distributor for various marques.

He joined Oundle in 1958 as a member of Laundimer House under Peter Ling.

After he left in 1962 Alex joined the family business, PMG (Patrick Motors Group), as the third generation to be involved with the business. He was a driving force and oversaw successful ventures such as PMG Forecourts Ltd, the Patrick Motor Museum and the Lombard Room Restaurant. He later managed the consolidation within the motor trade, and thereafter maintained the property portfolio within PMG. He followed his father in becoming Chairman of The Patrick Trust, a role he continued until his death. The Patrick Trust was created in memory of his brother Andrew, who sadly died of Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy when he was 13.

He was a Deputy Lieutenant for the West Midlands, a Governor of the Royal Shakespeare Company and a committee member for The Stonehouse Gang. His charitable work includes acting as chairman of the Patrick Trust, Chairman of the Joseph Patrick Trust (Muscular Dystrophy Equipment Fund) and Honorary Life President of The Muscular Dystrophy Campaign. He was also an Honorary Visiting Fellow of Green Templeton College Oxford.

Alex never forgot his time at Oundle and became one of the School's most generous and loyal benefactors. The engineering workshops, part of the School's SciTec development, are named after Alex who was a passionate supporter of teaching engineering in schools. He also made substantial donations to bursaries, the Music Department, the Chapel and the Library.

At the time of his passing, Alex had been married to his beloved wife, Valerie, for 47 years. Although they were not fortunate enough to have children, they ensured that the cares and needs of children were prominent in all their charitable activities. A kind and gentle man who will be sorely missed.

1963

PR Barnes (N) died on 29 July 2019

P Hodson (S) died on 20 August 2019 ▶

1964

FA Coulson (Lx)
died on 15 March 2020

JK Dargue (G) died on 14 July 2019

1965

AC Howard (D)
died on 10 September 2019

1967

RHW Wills (S) died on 4 July 2019

1968

RWH Curtis (Lx)
died on 18 October 2019

SJ Wood (B) died on 29 August 2019

1971

Martin Kellaway (Ldr)
died on 28 August 2018.



This death was recorded in last year's magazine without an obituary. We are pleased to include one this year.

Alan Midgely (Honorary OO) writes:

After leaving Oundle, where he was Head of House, played Rugby for the 1st XV and, in his capacity as Head of the School's Social Service, ran a camp on behalf of Leeds Children's Dept. in the summer holidays in 1970 (they were accommodated in the old San), Martin went on to read Classics at Bristol.

After a spell as a management trainee with Marks and Spencer, he went on to run a number of companies in Belgium, the Netherlands and the UK, finally settling in the North-East. Martin maintained links with Oundle by speaking at a number of Higher Education conferences for the Lower 6th and, with his Dutch wife Charlotte, accompanied and helped control a History study visit to Berlin in the mid-1980s.

In July 1975 he co-drove a mini-bus servicing a non-stop Oundle relay round England cycle ride, beginning and ending in Happisburgh on the Norfolk coast. The cyclists included **Richard Usher (C 75)**, **Simon Byford (C 75)** and **Bill Fisher (B 75)**. Charlotte died tragically young in 2008. They had three children, Alex, Maaike and Robert. Martin died in 2018 after a short illness.

1972

DJ Miles (Sc)
died on 28 September 2019

1976

RG Polson (G)
died on 30 July 2020

1978

MAP Ashworth (Sn) lost his battle with cancer on Sunday 13 September

2020, aged 60.

NC Wilson (S) died on 4th June 2020
His brother Gavin (S 76) writes:
Neil died of a brain tumour at the age of 59.

A bright and sporting boy, he followed his brother Gavin from Edge Grove prep school to Oundle, where he was placed in an accelerated stream. At Oundle, Neil took A-levels in Maths, French and German, afterwards realising that his interests lay more in computation than in linguistics. He took an A-level in Statistics before studying for a degree in Applied Maths at Exeter. Upon graduation he took an IT job with Dickinson Robinson in Bristol, which was the start of his career in programming and systems analysis. Exeter brought Neil to the West Country, and he never left, marrying Jane, a music teacher at a nearby comprehensive, and living in Horfield, Temple Cloud and finally Hallatrow. Two daughters, Grace and Ellie, arrived, becoming the focus of a close-knit and happy family.

Besides working for a number of financial and legal firms, Neil always maintained a healthy balance with his other interests, which included boardgaming, electronic music creation, and the outdoor wood-throwing game known as *Kubb*. Neil was a central figure in the adoption of this Nordic game in England, organising frequent competitions and a website.

He had been planning to retire at 60, but this goal was destroyed by the diagnosis of brain cancer last December. A major operation removed some of the tumour, but the doctors made it clear that the family should make the most of the months he was likely to have left. With Jane, he organised a celebratory lunch for family and relatives at a countryside pub in early March, just days before the coronavirus lockdown. His parents, who are still alive and living in Radlett, were too unwell themselves to attend.

Neil died at home with Jane, Grace and Ellie after a happy day. He will be dearly missed by all who knew him.

Martin Ward-Platt (Sn 72)
died on 27 July 2019



The following is taken from an obituary published in the **British Medical Journal**.

After attending Oundle school, Martin Peter Ward Platt studied medicine at Bristol University, where he met his future wife, Anne. He became

interested in paediatrics while a student and did senior house officer posts in paediatrics in Bristol, as well as a year in pathology. It was during the latter post that he started his lifelong interest in perinatal morbidity and mortality and indeed research in general. A move to the north east followed, and it was here he remained for the rest of his career. On completing his training in 1990 he was appointed as a consultant to the neonatal unit at the Princess Mary Maternity Hospital until the two maternity services in Newcastle were amalgamated on the Royal Victoria Infirmary site in 1993.

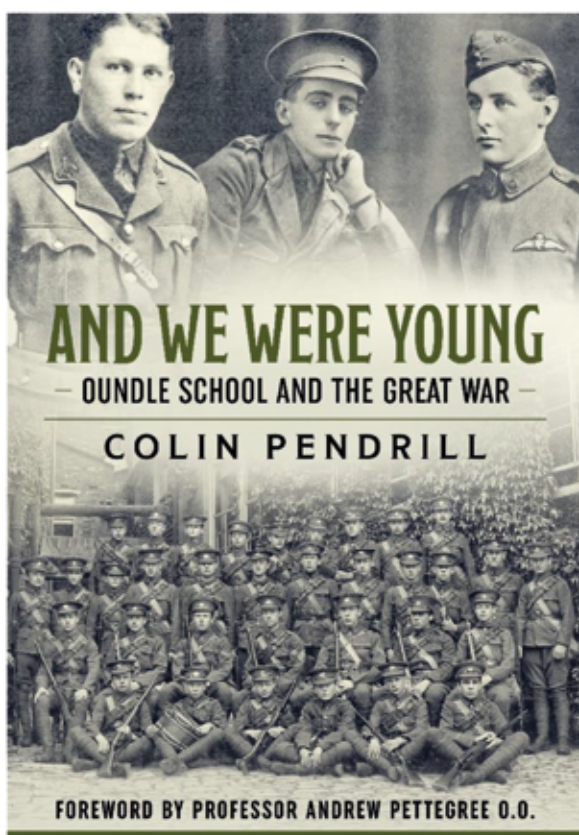
His knowledge [extended] well beyond medicine, and he was a polymath in the broadest sense. He had a passion for classics and history and one invariably learned something new from him, with subjects typically ranging from those as diverse as

Scythian history to etymology to veterinary science to Maori cultural practices.

Babies and their families were at the centre of Martin's clinical work, to which he brought warmth, kindness, and compassion. He challenged existing dogma through a combination of research to provide evidence where none existed and also by making people feel that their opinions were valued where evidence clashed with the way things "had always been done."

The north east region had a well established system for the collection and analysis of perinatal data, based at the regional maternity survey office. Martin was the lead for this service for many years and was approached by the team in the south-west to collaborate in the CESDI research programme into unexpected infant

AND WE WERE YOUNG – OUNDLE SCHOOL AND THE GREAT WAR



This landmark volume charts the impact of the First World War on Oundle School. It tells of some 1200 boys from **Oundle School** and **Laxton Grammar School** who joined up 'to do their bit' for their country and focuses on the brief lives and tragic deaths of **267 boys and masters** who perished as a result of the conflict.

Using **extensive contemporary sources written by the boys and those who knew them**, the book also explains how the boys at Oundle during the war responded to the crisis.

With over **300 pictures**, we also see **Oundle's recruits**, in peacetime and at war, as schoolboys and later as junior officers.

All profits go to the **Commonwealth War Graves Commission**.

Signed copies of And We Were Young (360 pages) costs £25 (including postage and

packing) and is available from the author colinpendrill@gmail.com

◀ deaths. This collaboration produced a succession of research projects into unexpected deaths in infancy and childhood. More recently he was the lead in the establishment and running of the national register of congenital anomalies and rare diseases.

At Archives of Disease in Childhood, Martin was described by colleagues as a colossus. In the course of his 20 years there, he came to, literally, bestride the journal, first as an associate editor, subsequently as edition editor for the fetal and neonatal edition, senior editor, and interim editor in chief.

Outside work Martin had a wide range of interests and carried through his sense of caring in everything he undertook. Throughout his final illness he made light of the challenges he faced and strove to protect those around him. He leaves his wife, Anne; two sons; and a grandson.

1980

WL Hodson (St A)
died on 25 September 2019



2012

SJT Scammell (L)
died on 23 November 2019

Jeremy Firth (Honorary OO) died on 31 March 2020
Alan Rayden (Honorary OO) writes:

From his time as a pupil at Blundell's School, Jeremy knew that he wanted to teach - and that desire to nurture young people remained a central feature of his life. On leaving school he served two years as an officer in the Royal Artillery (seeing active service in Cyprus during the Suez Crisis) and then went to Pembroke College, Cambridge to pursue his passion for English Literature and poetry. As a teacher, one of his maxims was 'poetry begins in pleasure and ends in wisdom' and his humour and scholarship enabled him to inspire and enlighten all ages and abilities. His pupils remember him with huge affection and respect.



He was an outstanding sportsman and coached sport every term for most of his career. But it was a deep passion for cricket that dominated his life. Perhaps it is the game which encapsulates the combination of skill, intelligence, elegance, athleticism and fair play which are so characteristic of Jeremy himself. He played whenever possible (still representing Ashton Village when over 70) and ran the School first XI for eight extremely successful years; at least six of his protege's gained Blues.

When Jeremy took over School House in 1977, he continued its successful sporting tradition. House teams could rely on his anxious and competitive support on the touch-line. Individuals could also rely on a compassionate and understanding Housemaster, encouraging them to develop their particular talents within the firmly defined boundaries of the House family. He always saw potential and believed in the possibility of reformation. As a Housemaster the pressures are immense; the trivial, the important, and the vital vie for immediate attention, and unexpected crises can arise at any moment. That Jeremy was able to sustain this for 15 years is a tribute not only to his dedication and stamina, but to his ability to see things in a wider context.

Jeremy was a versatile actor, always sensitive, subtle and with the most inventive sense of humour. He found time to escape the pressures of teaching to perform regularly at the Stahl Theatre in many of John Harrison's productions. After they both retired, John's Open Stage Company provided, over the next twenty years, a perfect outlet for his talents.

Before he came to Oundle, a deep desire to go where his skills might most be needed led him to two years teaching in a missionary school at Mussoorie, in the foothills of the Himalayas. Once at Oundle he encouraged pupils to become involved in Community Service, and later formed the link with St.Basil's, a charity for young homeless people in Birmingham. His sponsored 'sleep outs' for L6 pupils, where they experienced the realities of a night under cardboard, remain an annual event today. For eleven years he joined Jonathan Lee's adventure training camps in Scotland and also his epic 1984 Hindu Kush expedition. Hearing Jeremy recounting, in his inimitable way, his experiences of such times left his listeners always entertained and often in helpless hysterics.

Jeremy's marriage to Jenny delighted everyone. Not only did he gain a wife, but also three step-children, who adored him. Their home in North Street was relaxed and welcoming and together they enjoyed happy hours creating their garden. Retirement provided the opportunity for Jeremy to train as a Reader, leading services in local churches and sharing insights into the faith that was fundamental to his own life. His sermons were always accessible, peppered with anecdotes and humour, and for many years he also led several study groups with the same quietly spoken conviction.

Jeremy was a person of great integrity, generous and kind with a winsome smile. He was always meticulously prepared but admirably versatile. He has influenced for good many generations of pupils and staff, and continues to be an inspiration to all who knew him.

The Liberty Club

Olivia Groom (N 18) encourages us to preserve our endangered free speech

Many of us OOs only appreciate Oundle School after we have left. In the two years since leaving, I have had time to reflect on the value of a place which encourages people to engage in intellectual debate, to challenge each other, and to strive for a better, fairer world.

I am currently entering my second year at the University of St Andrews and have just launched The Liberty Club, a platform to share - through a journal, social media, and events - thoughts about Science, Culture, History, Politics, Economics, and International Affairs in an attempt to preserve our endangered free speech. Based in St Andrews, we aim to spread our mission around the globe.

One of my fondest memories of Oundle is sitting and chatting over surprisingly delicious meals in my House dining room. You can't live with eleven people for five years without talking about politics, particularly as 2016 occurred mid-way through my time at school. My views may have differed from many others' about Brexit, but I always felt able to engage in debate. We were offered countless opportunities to express our ideas - in debating competitions, in subject journals, or on OSCAR radio. We were privileged to hear from hundreds of great speakers on countless topics. Our teachers encouraged us to robustly analyse facts and opinions. There's always room for improvement, but on the whole we were free to express ourselves with integrity, responsibility, and accountability.

This is sadly not the case in most places around the world. On social media and in universities, echo chambers are formed and reasoned debate is drowned out by emotional outcry.

Rather than exchanging ideas,



many choose to enforce their views on others. Too often, people shout out an opinion that supposedly promotes equality while stating that anyone who opposes them - or even questions their argument - must be wrong. In such cases it can be tempting to avoid conflict by not speaking out.

Having experienced a world at Oundle where we listened to one another and allowed others' ideas to flourish, I hope to encourage change in our university bubbles. Some weeks ago, I set out to gather a multi-national group of young people with an array of opinions and stances. We began writing, and then launched our website and journal. We look forward to hosting debates in person once social-distancing allows.

In a world where intolerance can seem to overwhelm reason, we need all the support we can get. If you are interested in finding out more about the club, please contact: oliviagroom@icloud.com ■

On social media and in universities, echo chambers are formed and reasoned debate is drowned out by emotional outcry.

A View from the Lost Generation

It seems to me that the OO generation that has least to do with the school is the mid-1960s group. That's the group that came to Oundle around 1963 and left before 1970.

What are the reasons for this lack of contact between the school and that generation? As a member of it (Sc 1968) I'll give a personal view of the reasons why.

The short answer is contrast. The contrast between the world of the school at the time and the real world outside was too great. While the school looked back to the great days of Sanderson, out in the real world there were pirate radio stations and the Rolling Stones. The world was changing but the school was chained to the past. It was a time when in the wider world the age-old deference culture of England was being questioned, eroded and swept away. Yet at Oundle the deference culture was preserved, promoted and institutionalised.

The school had become set in its ways. Not only was it convinced that its ways were correct, it believed they were the only possible route to a good education. To my generation, the school's philosophy was totally wrong; its methodology was smug and self-satisfied; its institutions were backward-looking. Every pupil at Oundle in the mid-1960s was obliged to carry the dead weight of the concrete overshoes of deference, convention, tradition and smug self-satisfaction.

It should have been obvious in the 1960s that this was no way to run a school. Obvious to any thinking person. The trouble was the school gave the impression that it was not run by thinking persons. It appeared

to be enmeshed in a time loop stuck somewhere around 1864.

As well as being stuck a hundred years in the past, the school appeared to promote and sustain the deference culture above all things. The school was run by conventional traditionalists on conventional traditionalist lines to turn out conventional traditionalists.

The school appeared to esteem conformity most of all. It dulled creativity; it undermined individualism; it stifled invention; it attacked difference; it stamped on dissent; it fostered and prioritised the conventional; and its entire idea of excellence seemed to be modelled on the social structure of termites and ants.

Above all, there was no questioning of the system by anyone in authority within the system. Few questioned whether this methodology was good or could be better. There was no striving to improve, and no promotion of a questioning mentality. This is indefensible. It really isn't good enough for an education system to believe that the way things were done in the past is sound for all time.

Even 13 year old new boys could see that the way the school worked was not only morally wrong because of its dumb adherence to the institutionalised system of bullying known as fagging. It was also practically wrong because it affected the education of many in that generation. Many in my generation felt that our time at Oundle did not equip us well for our emergence into the world.

At Oundle I learnt to mistrust, distrust and despise all kinds of authority. At Oundle I learnt to loathe

**Mark Moore (Sc 68)
wonders why Oundle
in the 1960s esteemed
conformity and stifled
invention**

Generations before and after mine have great respect and regard for the school. Some of the generation of the mid-1960s does not.



unthinking traditionalism. At Oundle I learnt to beware office and position. At Oundle I learnt to detest and disregard received opinion and official wisdom. These were hard and inappropriate lessons.

Generations before and after mine have great respect and regard for the school. Some of the generation of the mid-1960s do not. Yet I enjoyed my time at Oundle. I had a happy and exciting time. It was purely down to the people, the friends, I met and made there.

Whatever else it may be, a school should be a liberating place. A school should be a place that frees and kindles the mind. Oundle in the mid-1960s was a place that attempted to

close and deaden the mind.

This view into a former time is intended as a lesson from the past. Oundle has always successfully adapted to the wider cultural environment and evolved. For Oundle, evolution has also become progression. It has become a much better place. It has been on a long and sometimes hard journey. The journey is ongoing and has no destination. But the lesson from the past says it must keep moving. It can never stand still and assume that what works best now will always work best. The school will maintain its success only if it keeps adapting now and into the future. The danger of not evolving and not adapting is inevitable extinction. ■

▲ Mark Moore, captain of School House's 1965 cup-winning junior rugby team

Covid 19 – A Chaplain's Response

**Brian Cunningham,
School Chaplain,
believes that a pastoral
response is called for,
not a philosophical one.**

Alongside the personal concerns that people have for the health and safety of their loved ones, the current crisis caused by Covid 19 has brought with it enormous disruption to the life of our schools both in this country and around the world. The normal rhythms of school life have been suspended, public exams have been cancelled, teachers and pupils alike are having to learn how to study online, and the normal school conventions and rituals associated with the Summer Term look like they will not take place. It is particularly hard for those leaving School this year, for whom it seems, at the moment, there may not be any proper sense of closure.

Simultaneously, the Covid 19 emergency has also resulted in questions that challenge people of religious faith and perhaps harden further the views of people of no religious faith. At the core of this challenge, is the question of 'where is God in all this'? To this could be added the supplementary questions, 'has God abandoned his people' and even, 'is Covid 19 God's doing'?

These questions have been raised many times before when considering the extent of human suffering and tragedy in the aftermath of natural disasters like the recent volcano eruptions in the Philippines or on White Island in New Zealand, the Tsunami in Indonesia or, going much further back, the Spanish Flu pandemic at the end of the First World War 1918-20. The difference now for many in our schools is that this is perhaps the first time they have been at the sharp end of

such a crisis, where everybody's individual response matters hugely. Consequently, the need to observe the protocols of social distancing and confinement will not just have clipped the wings of the young but also perhaps undermined confidence in the perceived stability of the world around them. Potential questions surrounding personal wellbeing and faith develop naturally from this.

For Chaplains, when faced with questions of this nature within a School environment, a pastoral response is called for, not a philosophical one. It is important initially to acknowledge the gravity of the situation, there is a sense of 'exile' about where we are. Although we are not physically separated from our homes, quite the contrary actually, we are separated from our School communities and the regular rhythms of life. We have become hugely reliant on the 'virtual' world rather than the 'real' world and there is a sense of alienation about this. So, the words of Psalm 137, 'how do we sing the Lord's song in a strange land?'

In these circumstances, we need to return to the fundamentals of our faith. We need to remember that we believe in a loving God who neither wills nor orchestrates the suffering of his people; indeed, we believe the opposite to be true. We have just celebrated the great Christian festival of Easter, although with the Churches being closed, in a radically different way. Nevertheless, as we followed the events of Holy Week towards Easter Day itself, we are shown that our God does not abandon us to the suffering and challenging situations we confront in life. On the contrary,

the Passion and Crucifixion of Jesus show us that God knows exactly what it means to suffer and, so is able to stand alongside and support us in times of personal and national crisis.

These are the roots of our faith and must inform the pastoral approach we adopt in our contact with pupils and staff alike. It lies in the ability to communicate and reassure people. In the words of St Paul to the Romans we need to emphasise, 'that neither death, not life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.'

How does this work out in practical terms when a School is physically closed? At Oundle, we have relied, firstly, on the Chaplaincy Pages on the School intranet. Here, pupils and staff are able to access daily Biblical readings, submit prayer requests, and to contact a School Chaplain. There is also the opportunity for Staff to be part of an online prayer group. Secondly, we are making use of Microsoft Teams, as many schools are, in order to post in the School channels, a midweek spiritual reflection and an abridged 'Sunday Service'. Our future plans include seeking more pupil involvement online and also arranging 'meetings' with those pupils who would normally attend our Christian discussion group and Bible study. In these strange and testing times, it is more important than ever that we encourage people in their faith, and to seek the support of our loving God. ■



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