



Interview with Mike Sergeant (WW, 1988-93)

Mike reflects on his time at Westminster and his journey into journalism for the BBC.

A Queen's Coronation from the eye of a Queen's Scholar

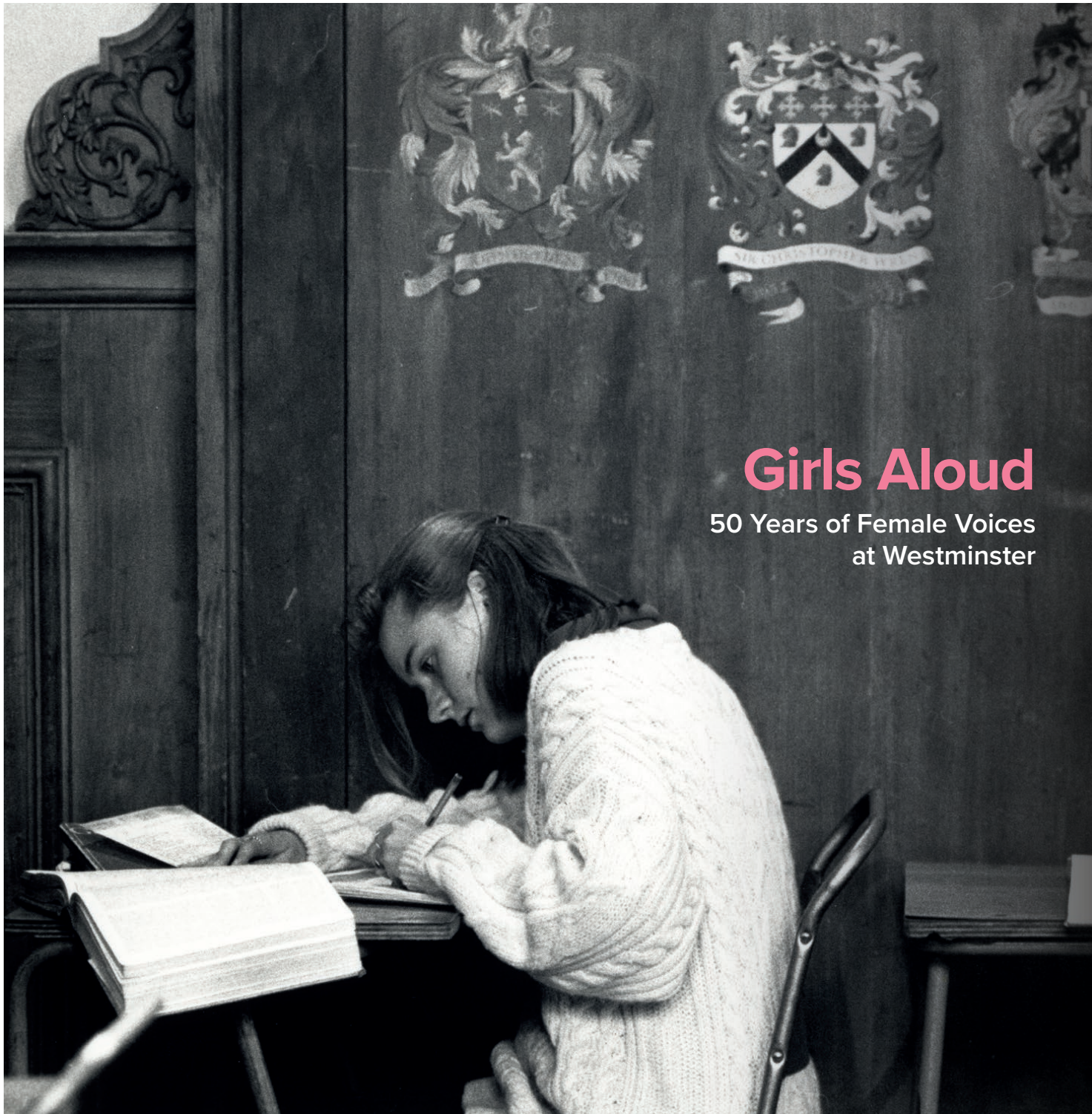
Sven Tester tells us about his memories of the coronation of Elizabeth II whilst being at Westminster.

From the Archives: Coronations

Elizabeth Wells delves into the history of the Coronation Chair and the 'Stone of Destiny'.

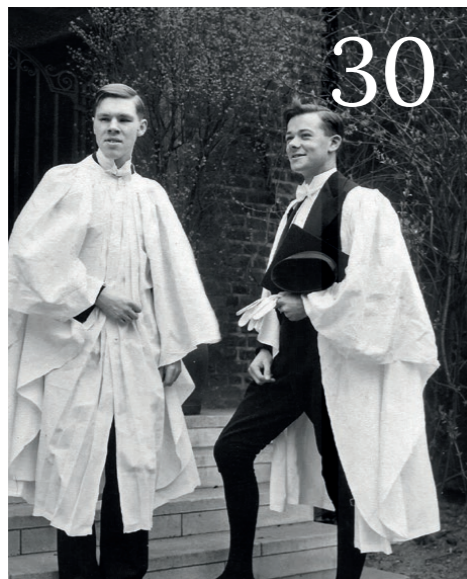
The Elizabethan Newsletter

2022/23



Girls Aloud

50 Years of Female Voices
at Westminster



It is with great sadness that we announce the sudden death of the Elizabethan Club's President, Tim Woods (GG, 1969-74) on 27th May 2023. He was a warm, kind, and deeply committed member of this community and his absence will be keenly felt.

We ask you to keep his friends and family in your thoughts and prayers.

If you would like to share any memories of Tim, please do email alumni@westminster.org.uk and we can pass them on to his family.

With best wishes,
The Elizabethan Club Committee

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Elizabethan Club Committee

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From The Editor

I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to meet even more Old Westminsterers in person at the recent Elizabethan Club events.

By the time you read this, the Club will have celebrated 50 Years of Women at Westminster, and King Charles will have been crowned, both events taking place at our nearest neighbour, Westminster Abbey. We have articles profiling illustrious female OWW, and memories of King's Scholars who attended the late Queen Elizabeth's Coronation in this edition of the Newsletter, along with a fascinating archives piece about coronations at the Abbey, which I hope you enjoy.

A big thank you to the Committee and to all those OWW who contributed to this Newsletter and beyond.

As ever, if you have any suggestions as to how to improve the Newsletter or any comments please do get in touch.

With warmest wishes,
Rhianon Jones-Hopkins

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Engagement Manager
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The Elizabethan Club are always looking to re-connect to any OW or former staff who did not receive a copy of this newsletter. If you know of anyone who did not receive a copy who would like to, please ask them to email alumni@westminster.org.uk



From The Chairman

The Newsletter was almost ready to go to print when I heard the terrible news that Tim Woods, President of the Elizabethan Club, had died suddenly. It was a terrible shock and the Committee as a whole are deeply saddened and will miss Tim greatly. Not only was he endless in his energy for the Club, the School Society and the Old Grantite Club, but he always did so with good humour and dogged determination. He was Chairman of the Committee when I first joined over 10 years ago and we first started working closely together over a year ago, when he became President. Since that time, he was always very supportive and sound in his advice to me and other members of the committee.

2023 is an important year for the School and for the Elizabethan Club – it is the year we will be marking the 50 anniversary of girls joining the School. There were a few girls at the School before this, but this is the first opportunity we have had to plan a big event to mark this change. It has now been made even more memorable by the announcement that the School will be going fully co-ed by 2030.

The Club has had a fuller year of events – lead by our chair of the Events Sub Committee, Paul Dunn who has worked hard to put together a clear plan of events to include smaller, more informal, events like the pub nights and online lectures, as well as more formal 'big ticket' events such as the Media drinks held at Soho House in February and the Women at Westminster Event held in College Garden in June. You can see an interview with Mike Sergeant by Amelia Ross (CC) in this Newsletter, who was our speaker at the Soho House event. The aim is always to include as many OWW as possible by having a range of events appealing to all generations and interests. However, if you have any ideas of other events please do not hesitate to contact us through the Development Office.

I would like to thank all of the Committee, who give their time and energy to the Club voluntarily and make my role a lot easier. This year has really shown what a great team it is, with the sub committees (Events; Diversity and Inclusion; and Marketing and Communications) coming into their own. I would also like to thank the Development Office, in particular Rhianon Jones-Hopkins and Luke Meadows, for their support and enabling more events to be able to take place this year.

Next year I look forward to hopefully seeing you at some of our future events, including the Sports Dinner towards the end of October, the Elizabethan Dinner at the end of November and the Small Carols at the beginning of December.

Until then, I hope you enjoy reading this year's Newsletter.

Jessica Chichester (GG, 2000-02)



Welcome from the Head Master Dr Gary Savage

I hope all is well.

The School year began, of course, with the very sad loss of our Visitor, her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, and it was my honour and privilege to attend her funeral on behalf of the School. We will also be represented at the coronation of King Charles, not least through the (now) King's Scholars who will lead the acclamation of the sovereign as they have done since 1688. This will be a proud and unforgettable moment for them, as indeed for the school community as a whole. Vivat Rex, vivat Regina.

It has been very good to meet a number of you over the past year at Elizabethan Club or School events, including the Annual Dinner, Big Commem, the Barbican Concert, and the Carol Service. The fullness of the programme attests to the withdrawal of the pandemic, which naturally has also had a positive effect on the life of the School, too. We have seen the welcome return of the Pancake Greaze, including the historic introduction of a parallel Greaze for girls, which proved a great success. International trips and foreign exchanges have also recommenced (as I write the School ►►)

is hosting a number of pupils from Munich, who are no doubt enjoying out typical March weather). The John Locke series is also back to its full vigour, with a range of fascinating speakers coming to Westminster in person to share their thoughts with the pupils, and to answer their perceptive questions, both up School and over lunch up Boulton afterwards. We are, in short, fully back to being the School we all love.

One exception to this welcome return to normality is the fact that Vincent Square is currently out of use, following the essential drainage works that took place in the autumn. The project has gone well, re-seeding is underway, and we hope to be back up Fields in September, when we will also be able formally to open our fully renovated and extended Pavilion, which is looking splendid. These facilities should now serve us well for many years to come, and I hope a number of you will return to make use of them in due course.

More broadly, we are continuing to develop our plans to become fully co-educational, all being well by the end of the decade. There is a great

deal to do in order to meet that target, so that we can welcome girls as well as boys warmly and well at every entry point into the Great and Under School; but we are making good progress. We are also working hard to build on the success to date of our bursary, endowment and capital fundraising campaigns, the success of which will make a vital contribution to the realisation of our ambitions, not least because of the economic headwinds that – in common with all schools – we are facing, and will likely to continue to face, in the years ahead.

Right now, you will be pleased to know that the pupils are doing well, making their presence felt, their voices heard, and – with our careful nurture and enthusiastic guidance – their talents palpable. Examination results and university destinations remain second-to-none, with Westminsters continuing to attend some of the best universities in the UK, the USA and Europe in very large numbers. We are proud of each and every one of them, and of all they contribute – as you all did, in your time here – to the flourishing of this great school. ■

Floreat.



DEVELOPMENT REPORT

The on-going effects of Covid and the departure of some staff members has resulted in some consolidation and refocussing of resources. This has resulted in a much leaner Development Office though its key objectives are the same and that is to generate additional income for the school via philanthropic donations and support. An interim Director of Development was appointed in December 2022 to oversee some restructuring and to eventually rebuild the team albeit in a controlled and responsible manner.

The Development Office's priorities remain the same despite the consolidation and restructuring and that is to be active and professional in serving its alumni community and to ensure we have meaningful interaction with our varied stakeholder community. We have 4 key fundraising priorities of which we need urgent support:

1 ENDOWMENT FUND
It is vitally important that we grow our Endowment Fund (the Ben Johnson Fund). We need to achieve a target valuation of £50M in order that we can serve and fund our bursaries. We currently spend circa £2m per annum on bursaries.

2 BURSARIES
Until such time that we achieve our £50m target, we must fundraise for bursaries. This is a clear and important priority in the school's vision in moving forward.

3 CAPITAL DEVELOPMENTS
The school has recently acquired two strategic properties and support is now needed for renovations and ensuring the buildings are fit for purpose.

4 THE WESTMINSTER FUND
This is a fund which allows for donations to be made for unrestricted purposes or for particular projects such as supporting sport, music or any other projects as per donor wishes.



How to donate

Go online to make a regular or one-off gift:
support.westminster.org.uk

To find out more and/or discuss how to give via our US or UK Foundations or how to leave a Legacy to the School please email:
developmentteam@westminster.org.uk

We would also like to thank the Old Westminsters who have kindly and most generously supported our fundraising activities. Your continued support means that Westminster can continue to widen access and provide a world-class education to its pupils.

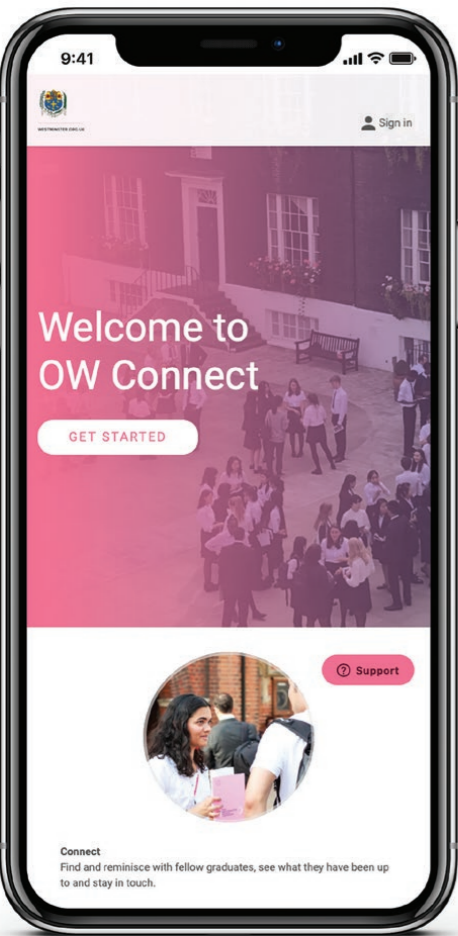
Thank you again for your support and we very much look forward to meeting many of you at our events in the coming year.

OWConnect

Connect and engage within the Old Westminster community

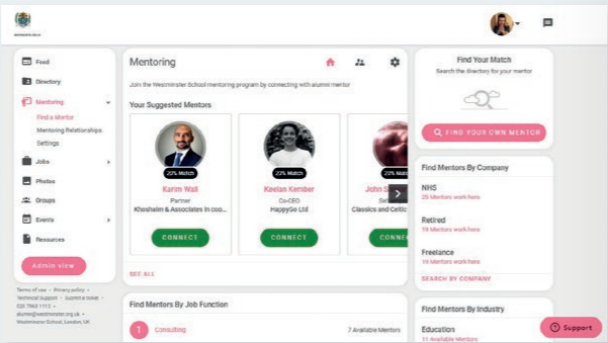
www.owconnect.com

OWConnect is our one-stop-shop for everything Old Westminster! Here, you can re-engage with friends, colleagues and classmates from your past as well as make new connections for your future.



What can OWConnect do?

Careers and Mentoring: Find your own mentor in a variety of industries and companies, or offer to mentor a younger OWW. ▼



Groups and Societies: Join any OW society, house society or group by simply indicating your interests at registration. All groups are easy to see, showing you what opportunities there are to get involved with your Westminster community. Don't see a Society that you'd like to be a part of? Start one up!

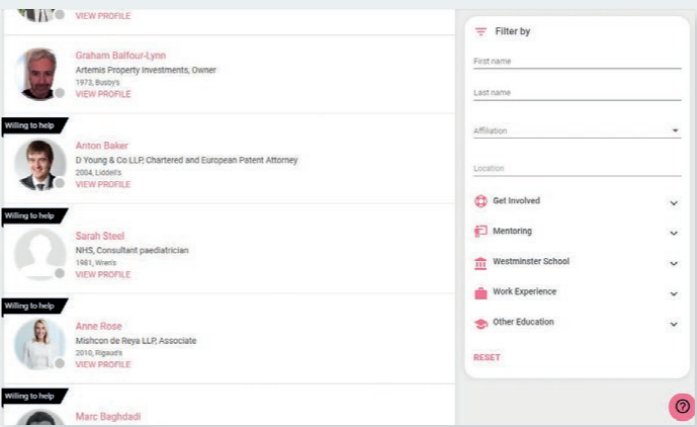
Jobs: Search for new career opportunities and apply directly within the platform. Or, recruit for your own company within your Old Westminster network.

Social Media: See all the School news from all the social media channels, in one central location.

Events: Register for events quickly and easily with a simple booking system, or organize your own pub night through the platform.

Album: Share your photographs from events, reunions or snaps of questionable fashion choices back in your school days.

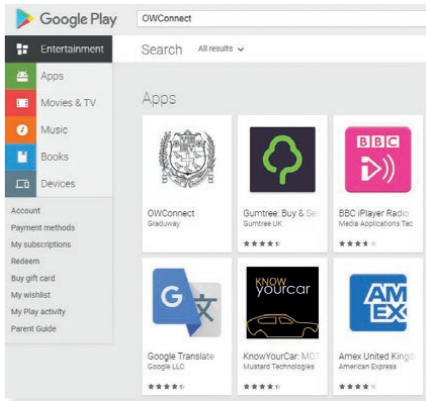
Directory: Search the network for OWW in your local area, somewhere you're travelling to, or somewhere you're moving to – You can also invite your own OW connections (from Facebook and LinkedIn) to the platform, if they have not already joined. ▼



Give Back: OWConnect provides a simple way to give back to the School, either through volunteering or through philanthropic donations.

Business Directory: Perhaps you are in need of a graphic designer for your company, or are looking for opportunities for a career change. The Business Directory is an easy way to search through the OWW network to find connections across a multitude of disciplines.

This incredible network is also available through your mobile device, with the OWConnect app able to be downloaded through the GooglePlay and Apple App stores. Search for the 'Graduway Alumni App' and download to your device, type in OWConnect in the institution drop-down box and sign in!



Over 2,400 OWW and former staff are now registered on the platform – why not join them and experience our global Old Westminster network for yourself!



Interview with Mike Sergeant

By Paul Dunn

Michael Sergeant is an English author, communications consultant and former journalist who worked for the BBC, Sky News, Reuters and CNN as a political correspondent, business correspondent and general news reporter. He worked as a foreign correspondent in more than 25 countries including Iraq and Lebanon. He recently spoke at the Westminster Connect Soho House drinks reception and Chair of our Events Committee Paul Dunn (AHH, 1991-93) sat down with him to discuss his memories of School and career as a journalist.



Did you enjoy your time at Westminster Mike?

Hugely, yes. Westminster is not just an academic hothouse, but a hothouse of absolutely everything from theatre to music to science to culture. It's just an extraordinary place, a place which managed to blend hundreds of years of history with a kind of scepticism and rebelliousness at times which was always exciting often intriguing and when I think back to the people at Westminster in my year and the other years that I knew. To be precocious didn't really set you apart at Westminster everyone was kind of precocious at something, that was pretty standard and all the other organisations that I have been involved with in my life whether its Cambridge University or the BBC or

anywhere else, everywhere else just looks slightly bland in comparison to Westminster and I suppose that is just an extraordinary reflection of the kind of school it was and is.

Looking back, is there any favourite teacher you had or something you learnt that was quite specific to the capabilities of the school?

In terms of teachers, there were many teachers I loved and some of them were the ones who took me on expeditions to places like the Isle of Sky where we did an Easter Camp climbing up mountains in incredibly dangerous conditions really, looking back on it. Teachers like Danny Gill who took us on our rugby tour to India, an amazing and eccentric thing to do. Another one who really stands out for

me is Mr Holmes, Peter Holmes who was an actor before he became a teacher and he really inspired me about Shakespeare as well, I did English at A level as well as maths and physics, but I got very involved in drama at Westminster and Mr Holmes managed to communicate his love of theatre and his love of drama to us in an incredible way. We used to get together in one of the rooms just off School and we'd rehearse readings of Shakespeare plays in the evenings, it was a bit like the 'Dead Poets Society' and Mr Holmes was the Robin Williams character and that made an extraordinary impact on me because performing in one kind or another has been very important to my life and my career.

What was your favourite subject at school?

I think the wonderful thing about Westminster is the range and the mix, so, in other schools I might have been 'you're a scientist' or 'you're an arts guy' at Westminster there was none of that, it was like 'okay, do physics and double maths and English literature and be involved in the theatre' and do all of that. I think that range was encouraged, we weren't typecast into one particular subject, but if forced and I had to choose I would say that studying English Literature at A level was my favourite subject.

This ties in nicely with your career path, what did you study at University?

I was interested in current affairs, I was interested in politics but I also wanted to know how the world worked and so I was led to study Economics at Cambridge which I didn't have any experience of, I hadn't done it at A level and so I had to pick that up really quickly. It was the mix of these subjects that has been so important for me. The maths has been quite useful for the work I have done in the business world and supported me to do economics. The English and Drama side of my life has also been vital and now I look at the work that I do in helping people in business and companies to get out there and perform whether that's on stage or online; all these things are now coming together for me in a way that I had never anticipated at the time. I couldn't age 15, 16, 17, 18 have thought okay here are the skills I need to acquire, I just did what I found to be fun and interesting but it has all come together and it is all valuable and it is all useful to me now all these years later.

You've become a journalist, amongst other things, so what are the personal qualities you think are required for a journalist, was there anything (and you've mentioned some already) that came through from your time at Westminster that you think has been valuable and helped you in your journalistic career?

I think as a 'top level' journalist you have to be able to go anywhere and talk to anyone whether that's a Prime Minister or a CEO or the Leader of a major global organisation and Westminster gave me that confidence to be in the room with anyone which I think is really important for a journalist. I think the other thing that my education gave me

“The wonderful thing about Westminster is the range and the mix... We weren't typecast or crowbarred into any particular subject.

was the curiosity to follow stories and to investigate concepts. I think it gave me a really broad understanding of the world. I wouldn't say that my knowledge was very deep in any area, but it is very very wide and that's helpful and useful for the kind of journalism that I wanted to do and also writing. So much of my life has been about words about trying to express complicated ideas in simple ways and learning how to write which is something I did start to acquire at school and university but I had to go on and become much better at as a journalist has been very very important; distilling complicated ideas into very simple language that anyone can understand, that's the skill that has been the most useful and important to me.

What about resilience as a quality? You've been in some quite dangerous locations as well.

Maybe that was an important part. I was Head of the Expedition society at Westminster, I mentioned we went to Scotland and we climbed mountains and we back-packed across the open wilderness and we did things that looking back that were quite scary and alarming. I remember being on ice slopes and I had a rope and there was a teacher below me and I was the guy responsible for, effectively the life of this teacher on an ice slope in the Cooling Ridge on the Isle of Sky and so being able to operate in risky situations I suppose is something I learnt a bit about. You never want to be too comfortable though and as a journalist to have a long career if you go to those sorts of places you have to be very cautious as well, you can't be 'gung ho', you've got to be careful and you've got to take safety seriously which we did. I totally agree with you about resilience and you need the stamina to be able to broadcast from 6 in the morning until 10 pm at night often if you were the person on the spot and there was a breaking story. If you don't have that it would be quite hard to operate as a journalist at that sort of level.

In terms of career, you worked for the BBC for a quite a while, what would you say is your most valuable contribution to the BBC or let's say your finest hour at the BBC?

I'm not going to claim any great glory or incredible scoops or moments where I changed the world, my career didn't really do that. But I did have some wonderful experiences and I worked in 25 different ➡

countries (I think) and I went to war zones and I went to disaster zones, I covered elections, I did some incredible things looking back and met some amazing people, but I think the period I really enjoyed was when I was a reporter on Breakfast, so every morning I would pop up in a different part of England basically. So one morning I might be filming butterflies and the next day shire horses and the next day I'd be in an A&E ward or in a residential care home and that breadth of experience was such fun. I got to go into almost every town and county in England and report on people's lives and I saw an amazing patchwork of people and places. The other thing I really enjoyed about that particular job at the BBC was working in a small team on one programme and there was great camaraderie on the road always working with wonderful camera crews and producers and the only downside was that we were working on a programme called 'Breakfast' but because we were always live between 6 in the morning and 10 am, we never actually got breakfast!

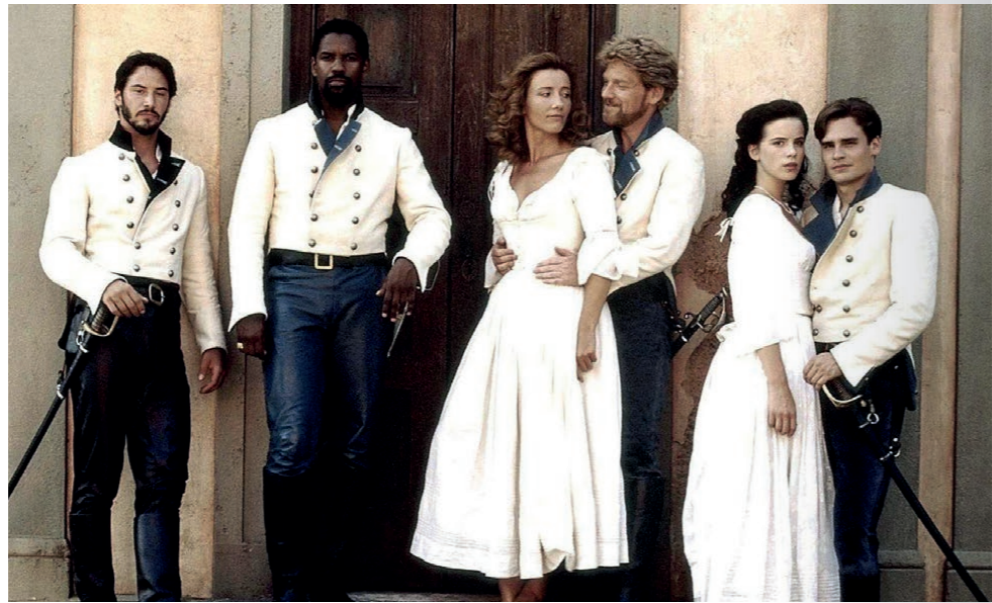
What are you most proud of in your life and career so far, outside of the BBC, what would you pick?
I'm most proud of my kids of course, I think you have to say that and it's the truth as well, so that's convenient. I'm proud that I've been able to have an incredibly varied career and that's been encouraged at every turn. I have had the mindset from Westminster and from Cambridge and from my family to seize opportunities to go places to travel the world to search for experiences and that is what I am proud of, I believe that life is about putting down memories. You've got to look back on your life and think those are really clear colourful, distinct memories. I always worry if, as has happened more in later years, time seems to blend together a bit more and the years are quite as distinct as they used to be, but hopefully many adventures ahead as well.

What 3 or 4 famous people would you invite to dinner and why?
There was a film, an adaptation by Kenneth Branagh of 'Much Ado About Nothing' and it had a bizarre and wonderful cast which included Kenneth Branagh, Emma Thompson, Denzel Washington, Keanu Reeves, Ben Elton and Michael Keaton and they looked like they had such fun making

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The ground is shaking in the media, we've seen the cracks appear in the BBC and across broadcasting and print media.

that so I'd like to recreate a dinner party with that exact cast ideally in the same Italian villa where they filmed that movie.

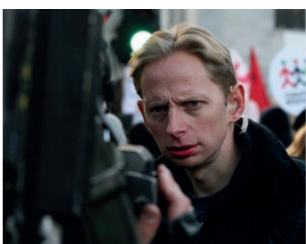
Mike, you've got some views on bias in the media at the moment, you've recently given a talk on that at an Elizabethan event, what are your comments on where the media is at present in terms of bias and how that's changed over time and indeed where it might go?
Yes, the ground is shaking in the media, we've seen the cracks appear in the BBC and across broadcasting and print media. I think this is just this volcano of political energy which is kind of erupting in different ways and it is very hard for the ground not to be broken by this and we see it in different ways, we obviously see it at the BBC in a way that gets a lot of attention, the idea that the BBC could be this impartial monolith which is able to be entirely fair and even-handed. It's been hugely challenged by Brexit, by culture wars and by everything else we've seen in the world where social media galvanises, agitates but also polarises and it's very hard to have on the one hand this, on the other hand that type journalism. It pushes people apart and threatens the cultural integrity of something like the BBC. So huge challenges to it, but if we look around the world and we see places where you don't have that tradition, you have biased media in all its forms across broadcasting and print and online then we see it's worth fighting for, it's worth fighting to try to preserve the best of the BBC and its something that when I worked there I was



The cast from Kenneth Branagh's Much Ado About Nothing

very proud to be a part of, I was proud to put the story and my own professionalism when it came to impartiality way above any personal views that I might have had. These days, I don't think everyone in the BBC quite shares that level of professionalism. They want their own politics to feed through more into their lives and their careers and that is a worry.

You recently gave a talk on this exact topic at an Elizabethan event, how did you enjoy that and do you enjoy going to other Elizabethan events as well?
I haven't been to many, but I did enjoy that and I was also quite taken aback by the number of questions that I received, it was pretty intense. I felt I was being grilled as if I were the Director General of the BBC rather than I just happened to work there a few years ago, but that's typical for Westminster I suppose. We had questions on everything from Jimmy Saville to the Armenian Genocide and I fielded those as well as I could but I think it was a reflection on the kind of people that Westminster produces; relentlessly curious and inquisitive and knowledgeable. It was a far more challenging audience, in a good way, than most of my work in the Corporate or Government sectors, so I really enjoyed it. When I left Westminster, I was very much 'okay that's behind me now, I've done school, I want to move forward into new experiences, meet new people, engage new networks. But I think as you get older the pull of nostalgia does start to drag you gently back a bit more and you start to join the dots as well and you see how relevant those experiences were between the ages of 13 and 18 to everything that has happened since and all that you have become so I am definitely keen to re-engage and celebrate a little bit more. I also think that if you've been to somewhere like Westminster such is the level of privilege associated with a school like that, you are tempted to minimise it in your life and your career, but now I have got to the point where I'm a little bit older and I'm keener to celebrate everything that happened in my life and also just to celebrate the kind of place Westminster was and is. When you look around the world, how many places like Westminster School are there really? The thing about the school which I think is so extraordinary is has all of that; the public school stuff, it has all of the history but it also all has the quirkiness and that rebelliousness of



Mike as a BBC News 24 reporter covering student protests in Parliament Square, 2010

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When you look around the world, how many places like Westminster School are there really?... it has all of the history but it also all has the quirkiness and that rebelliousness of spirit.

spirit which I feel is very, very important in the kind of people it produces and where they go on to find success in their lives.

To finish off, what are you working on at the moment?
So, now I am advising individuals and companies about communication. I'm travelling around the world, physically but I am also travelling around the world from my room at home and I am helping executives prepare for keynote speeches, for panels, for podcasts, for any kind of external communication. So, I am training speakers and I'm training moderators and I'm training media interviewees and I am advising them on what to say and what not to say because a few words mis-spoken can destroy a career or a company's reputation. A few words well-spoken can move you to a higher trajectory, so I try and help them to stay out of trouble and also when the right moment comes say something interesting which can engage and motivate their audiences and it's a lot of fun and the thing that I particularly enjoy now which perhaps takes us back to the theme of teachers and teaching is I like working with the high level people but also the younger audiences and training them and coaching them can be transformational and that is so rewarding that it is probably the thing I enjoy the most right now about my career and my life is trying to inspire the leaders of tomorrow.

Final thought, to those younger leaders of tomorrow, what would be your number one tip when speaking or being interviewed as indeed you are today?
Prepare more than I have done for this! Ask the interviewer for the questions. Ask if you can check your quotes before they go out and try to keep things very simple. Talk about things you know about, talk about your own life talk about your own experiences, don't try and talk about things you don't have any expertise in or knowledge of. Just be honest, say "I don't know about that." "It's not something I've looked at." "It's not something I've got any experience of." When you are with a journalist or any audience they appreciate honesty. So be honest, stick to what you know. It's not the time for dazzling or taking risks that you can't control. ■

Events

Photo Gallery

If you took some good photos at any of our OW events this year, please do send them to alumni@westminster.org.uk

Elizabethan Club Dinner



Lawn Tennis

It was great to be back on court this season following a couple of years of significant disruption with COVID. It was a big year for both the OWLTC and tennis generally. Roger Federer announced his retirement from the game, and Emma Raducanu was awarded an MBE. From our side, the OWLTC was quickly back to familiar form, making it to the quarter finals of the D'Abernon Cup, hosting a series of friendlies, and enjoying a couple of excellent social events.

As usual, Marc Baghdadi and Chris Anguelov stormed the round-robin of the D'Abernon Cup. They were joined in the quarter-finals by James Amott and Ed Roussel with our team narrowly losing to the Old Wellingtonians. A few of our strong new players – Leo and Andrew Rozanov, Tibo Rushbrooke – were unfortunately not available to make the quarter-finals but are keen and we are very excited to get them in the D'Abernon Cup side next season. We now have the depth in our squad to win the Cup!

To friendlies, we played UCS Old Boys, the Old Harrovians and the Old Etonians. Against UCS we fielded Jimmy Notaras and Darius Latham Koenig, Simon Clement-Davies and Christian Foss. Darius and Jimmy lost 5-7 against their first pair then drew 6-4, 4-6 with their second. Christian and Simon CD lost both. Against the Old Harrovians we played Jimmy & Jerome Kamm, Simon & Oscar Podlewski, unfortunately both pairs losing all their matches. However, the same players secured a great result with a win over the Old Etonians. Well done!

On the social side we enjoyed an excellent mid-season dinner at Indian restaurant Lovage in Victoria, and were hosted to an exceptional end-of-season dinner at Brooks's Club by Christopher Clement-Davies. Thank you very much indeed for hosting such a special event; a real highlight of the season!

As ever, Saturday morning sessions at Vincent Square run year-round weather permitting and our Wednesday evening sessions run from April to August. Please come and join us or feel free to get in touch if you have any questions or want any information. We hope to see you on court!

Tristan Vanhegan (HH 1994-99), Club Captain

Athletics

The highlight of the season was the annual triangular race between the OWs, the School and the Common Room, which took place in September 2022 in Hyde Park.

Run over 4kms, with a handicap, expertly assessed by Simon Wurr, it resulted in a victory for the OWs A Team with 22 points ahead of the School A team with 44 points. The individual winner was Toby Evans of the OWs with 13 minutes 45 seconds, ahead of Nicholas Taylor of the School with 14.08 and third was another OW, Philip Cohen, with 14.20. Four other OWs, Dominic Williams, Arseny Uskov, Su-min Lee and Louis Bilboul were all in the top eight finishers. The handicap winner was Yip Elodie of the School.

Anyone wishing to take part in the 2023 race in September 2023 and/or in the Inter Old Boys cross-country event on Wimbledon Common, which this year has been fixed for Saturday, September 16, should contact John Goodbody (LL, 1956-61) on john@jbgoodbody.co.uk

Fives

OW Fives have no report as we are mid-season, but we remain very active.

If you would be interested in playing fives again (competitive or casual!) please contact Riki Houlden at riki.houlden@btinternet.com. We would love to see you join us back on court.

The Budapest crew: James Gunn (CC, 2008-13), Tim Jones (LL, 1992-1997), Charlie Howell (BB, 2003-2008)(cox), Oliver Cox (HH, 1997-2002), Dan Rix-Standing (BB, 2004-2009), Wilf Kimberley (WW, 2005-2010), Tom Fielder (DD, 2005-2010), Nick Scott (AHH, 2008-13), and George Bradbury (BB, 2007-12).



Mid-race in Budapest: Charlie Howell (BB, 2003-2008)(cox), Tom Fielder (DD, 2005-2010), Dan Rix-Standing (BB, 2004-2009), Wilf Kimberley (WW, 2005-2010), Nick Scott (AHH, 2008-13), George Bradbury (BB, 2007-12), Tim Jones (LL, 1992-1997), James Gunn (CC, 2008-13) and Oliver Cox (HH, 1997-2002).

Water

2022 proved another successful year for Old Westminster Water.

Wilder Fulford (WW 2016-21) and Charles Cartisser (AHH 2016-21) joined fellow 2021 leavers Caspar Griffin and Nirav Tomasi in a summer campaign for the Britannia Challenge Cup at Henley Royal Regatta. The crew raced twice at Metropolitan Regatta, coxless and coxed, winning their Saturday Championship 4- C Final and then (coxed by Tobias Bernard) finishing a creditable third in Sunday's Championship 4+ B Final. Focusing on the coxed four they then raced again at Marlow Regatta, coxed by Gianluca Cristofoli-Quinn: the crew came fourth in the Championship 4+ C Final, knocking five seconds off their time from Met. These results were good enough for Henley Royal Regatta to favour the 4+ by exempting them from qualifying races (always a sought-after endorsement!). The 4+, now coxed by Manal Pandey, had their first race on the Tuesday morning against Commercial Rowing Club, Ireland and raced well; unfortunately the visiting crew proved the stronger down the course. Altogether it was a very impressive season of racing by these four gap year students; we also thank CD and the School for the loan of the racing shell.

Pierre Thomas (HH 2004-09) also raced at Met, coming third in his Saturday race and fifth on the Sunday. He then joined Finn Bannister (BB 2015-20) later in the year to race again at November's Kingston Small Boats Head: the 2x combination won their category decisively (also beating many quads and fours!).

On the social side, our annual Henley drinks were very well-attended this year, with many generations of OW oarsmen, oarswomen and partners coming together to celebrate this year's crews' achievements, swap the old stories and jokes and, of course, plan for racing in the year to come! There will be another Old Blades regatta for alumni eights in September 2023, and we hope to field a strong contingent.

Any OWW wishing to come back to rowing should get in touch with the writer at cox.oliver@gmail.com, on 07951 511515, or through the Elizabethan BC Facebook group.

Oliver Cox (HH, 1997-2002)

Golf

In the Halford Hewitt, we lost to 1 ½ - 3 ½ to Sherborne.

In the Plate competition, we lost 1-2 to Felsted.

In the Grafton Morrish we qualified for the Finals but lost ½ - 2 ½ to Cheltenham.

In the Bernard Darwin, we lost to Uppingham and in the Senior Darwin, we lost to Malvern.

In the Royal Wimbledon Putting on the night which we played we qualified 2nd for the Finals where we came 3rd. Our team was Henry Kingsbury, Edward Cartwright, Angus Mackay and Tom Smith, Jim Durie had played in the qualifying round instead of Tom Smith.

In the Dick Watson Trophy at Aldeburgh. We were lying

12th after the competition on Saturday and we finished 12th having just lost to the Radleians.

In the Club matches which were played, we defeated the Old Marlburians, Old Reptonians and Old Uppinghamians, halved with the Old Paulines but lost to the Old Wykehamists. In the School match, Harry Sweeting was playing for the School and he will be a good addition to OWW golf.

The three Club Meeting were held; Spring Meeting at Worplesdon, the Summer Meeting at Seaford and the Autumn Meeting in New Zealand.

Anybody who would be interested in joining the Golf Society please contact David Roy, email: daroy@btinternet.com

31 January 2023

NEW WESTMINSTER STEM WORKSHOP OPENED BY WOMEN IN ENGINEERING DIVERSITY CHAMPION

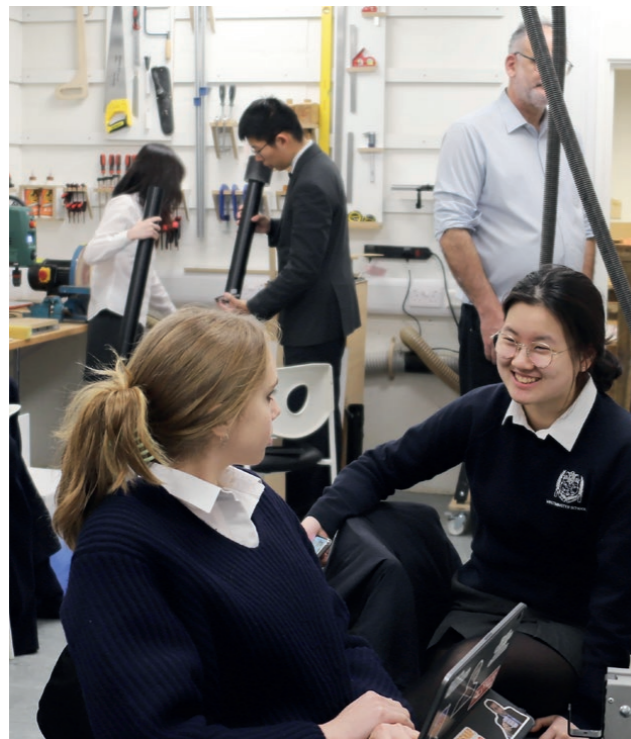
At the new physics and engineering workshop's inauguration, award-winning engineer Roma Agrawal MBE spoke to pupils about inventions that have transformed the world.

On her visit Roma Agrawal, a renowned structural engineer, talked about her upcoming book, *Nuts and Bolts: Seven Small Inventions That Changed the World (in a Big Way)*, which focuses on the ingenuity of historic engineers and how the invention of tiny things including the nail, spring and wheel have 'enabled humanity to see the invisible, build the spectacular, communicate across vast distances, and even escape our planet.'

After speaking with pupils, Roma, who has worked on major projects including The Shard, and who is a vocal advocate of women in engineering, then cut the ribbon on the new workshop, a practical space in the basement level of the Robert Hooke Science Centre, featuring equipment from hacksaws and glue guns to circuit boards and computer-aided design software.

Head of Physics, Dr Helen Prentice, said: "This is a fantastic new space to support cross-disciplinary STEM projects. In this workshop, pupils will maintain and develop practical skills giving them the confidence to solve real-world problems and have fun!"

Lukas (Sixth Form, PP) said "It was interesting to learn the history of seemingly simple objects with such complex engineering. It is also really valuable to have a space where I can realise and engineer an idea into an object."



16 January 2023

ALL EYES ON HENLEY AS WESTMINSTER ROWERS ENTER 2023 IN PURSUIT OF 'SPEED, VICTORY AND GLORY'

The boys' elite squad has been training hard ahead of a busy 2023, with all eyes focused on the biggest date in the rowing calendar.

With their season revolving around July's Henley Royal Regatta, Westminster School Boat Club's top boys' squad had been training diligently over the winter, including throughout the Christmas break, through the ups and downs of the turbulent weather conditions, having come face-to-face with snow on the Thames. In early January, the squad attended their annual winter training camp in London, developing their technique and teamwork, and targeting other upcoming events, to ready them for the highlight of their sporting calendar.

Captain of the Boat Club, Max (Remove, LL), aims to lead the squad in the most prestigious regatta of the School's rowing year and to bring home the Princess Elizabeth Challenge Cup for the first time, after making the final in 2015 and the semi-final in 2016 and 2021.



With high ambitions, the squad is simultaneously targeting another key goal, to play a crucial part in the legacy of their year at the club by having rowers represent Great Britain at international events, like many Westminsters before them.

Reflecting on their work, Max, won a silver medal with Team GB at the U19 World Rowing Championships in 2022, said: "The Westminster Top Squad is a community within the wider school, a place where we forget the day-to-day pressures of school life and focus on something greater, something almost transcendent – the pursuit of speed, victory, and glory."

Filip (Sixth Form, RR) added: "Rowing at Westminster allows us to be part of something bigger and special and have the chance to feel accomplished day to day.

"Rowing may seem like a chore to many, but it can evolve into a lifestyle of wanting to be something more than what is required. The true beauty of it is the close-knit relationships forged in our time together."

13 December 2022

DELEGATES' DIPLOMACY LEADS TO MULTIPLE WESTMINSTER WINS AT MUN CONFERENCE

Two Westminster delegations put on an impressive show at the London Oratory's model united nations conference, winning them a host of prizes, including Best Delegation.

Eleven of Westminster's Sixth Formers made up two delegations at the LOSMUN conference in November, where they took part in several debates over the course of a day. In the educational simulation of the United Nations, Westminster's delegations were assigned the nations of India and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). Westminster's India delegation won the overall title of *Best Delegation* and the group secured multiple individual category titles too.

During the event, hosted by the London Oratory School in Fulham, pupils played the role of international delegates and attempted to solve real-world issues with the policies and perspectives of their assigned country. Every country nominated one pupil representative to stand on each of the UN committees, which included the Security Council, the Human Rights Committee, and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime. As the conference came to an close, participants were surprised with the announcement of an emergency general assembly on Venezuela; Westminster's DPRK delegation was voted *Best in General Assembly* for their contribution to the debate.

A solid combination of commitment and teamwork contributed to Westminster's overall success at the conference. Over the course of the year, pupils have dedicated a great deal of their spare time to prepare themselves, attending MUN Society every Monday lunch and regular House MUN events after School.

India delegation representative, Benjamin (Sixth Form, PP) said: "It was a great honour to represent the two "greats" at the same time – Westminster School and the Republic of India!"

"LOSMUN was my first ever MUN conference, so the learning curve was pretty much vertical! The key takeaway was that successful speeches are formed through a combination of a little background knowledge, and a lot of quick thinking."

DPRK delegation representative, Alice (Sixth Form, MM) added "Being new to MUN, having only participated in House MUN earlier this year and a few society meetings prior, LOSMUN was an exciting opportunity to develop my skills in action, learning from peers across London and the UK.

"Representing the DPRK encouraged me to view global events and issues from a different perspective, and as always it was interesting to research and consider current affair topics in more depth for the debates. It was extremely rewarding to see our clause being among the few that passed in the general assembly and to be awarded Best Delegation at General Assembly thanks to our teamwork, contributing to Westminster's overall success."





24 November 2022

ELIZABETHAN REIGNS REMEMBERED AND CELEBRATED IN SYMBOLIC WESTMINSTER SERVICE

The Commemoration of Benefactors of Westminster School, marking the 464th anniversary of Queen Elizabeth I coming to the throne, also reflected on the recent end of the second Elizabethan age.

The Commemoration service, known by most as 'Big Commem', returned to Westminster Abbey in November following a break of four years. The service of processions, words and music, much of it said and sung in Latin, celebrated the refounding of the school in 1560, paying tribute to Queen Elizabeth I, as well as its benefactors over the years, many of whom are interred or memorialised within Westminster Abbey.

In his address to the packed church of pupils, parents and Old Westminsters, Head Master Dr Gary Savage reflected on the act of commemoration: "It is a pleasure and a privilege to share this special evening with you, when we come together to celebrate our founding by Elizabeth I, and also, on this occasion, mark with honour and respect the passing of her successor, Elizabeth II.

"Big Commem is always a hugely important event in the School's calendar; but perhaps today more than ever we live consciously and conspicuously in commemorative times. Back in September, this sacred place was full of mourners at the late Queen's funeral; and just last weekend, it heaved again on another powerful and moving Remembrance Sunday. The King's Scholars were gathered round the Grave of the Unknown Warrior, while the King was at the Cenotaph. Both places encapsulate what historian Jay Winter has called 'sites of memory, sites of mourning' – places that become the locus of our collective reflection and connection; connection with the past, with sacrifice, and with one another.

"To my mind, the National Covid Memorial Wall, just across the river, beneath St Thomas's, does something similar, creating a site of memory and mourning that speaks deeply to our human need for connection through memory, reflection, honour and thanksgiving."

22 November 2022

JAPAN'S 'COOLNESS' CAPTURED IN AWARD-WINNING VIDEO

The linguistic and creative skills of two Japanese language pupils has secured them a runners up prize for a video showcasing Japan's cultural power and international popularity.

In their submission to *JaViChamp*, a Japanese Video Championship for young UK learners, Remove pupils Aryan (HH) and Bowen (GG), were awarded a joint runner-up prize for their film which explores the UK's popular perception of Japan as 'cool Japan' and the growing interest in Japan's culture.

Aryan and Bowen, who have both been learning Japanese since joining the Sixth Form, delved into the complexities of Japan's unique reputation for refined elegance, beauty and purity, intertwined with economic and political affairs, focusing on the idea that the cultural power and international popularity of the nation are key strengths.

JaViChamp, run by the Japan Foundation, a part of the nation's embassy in the UK, invites secondary school students studying Japanese in the UK to draw on their knowledge of the language, and employ their video-editing and presenting skills to create videos on set topics about Japan's culture.

Bowen said: "It was an interesting challenge – producing a video entirely in Japanese, as it was a great opportunity for both of us to practice what we had learned over the last couple of years. The theme of the competition, Japan in the United Kingdom, was also interesting as we have both had many encounters with Japanese culture in the UK. There was certainly a lot that we could have talked about in our essay! In the end, we settled on how one of Japan's strongest suits is its cultural power and its popularity abroad – ultimately the reason why we wanted to learn Japanese in the first place."



17 November 2022

DELIVERY DEALS FOOD APP WINS WESTMINSTER DRAGON'S DEN INNOVATION AWARD

A food delivery app which offers users the best offers, promo codes, delivery times and ratings across a range of providers has impressed a panel of CEOs, executives, bankers and inventors to take a prize named in honour of an Old Westminster Nobel Laureate Economist.

Edward (Lower Shell, PP) and Mikhail (Lower Shell, PP) impressed judges with their *QuickFoods* app, coming out top in a field of four teams in the Sir Richard Stone Innovation Competition in November.

The competition – named after the late Sir Richard Stone OW who won the 1984 Nobel Prize in Economics for a double entry accounting model that could be used to track international economic activity – is designed to encourage invention among the School's youngest cohort. Created by four Remove pupils, Kaushal (RR), Aryan (HH), Kaden (WW) and Chris (BB), this year's competition launched in January 2022, when all competitors were in Fifth Form, and nine teams of pupils took on the Dragons' Den style challenge, coming up with innovative ideas for products and services, helped by A Level economics students.

The first round of judging took place early in the Election Term, with a panel composed of Westminster teachers led by the Economics Department. All nine business plans were scrutinised before four teams were selected to compete in the final round, showcasing their ideas to a stellar judging panel: investment bankers Ina De, a managing director of J P Morgan and Edward Cartwright, CEO of Arcus, both Westminster Governors; Flor Kassai, partner of private equity firm Inflexion; and Alex Fitzgerald, Old Westminster and co-founder of Cuckoo Broadband.

The four finalists' presentations were delivered to an exceptionally high standard and after much deliberation, Edward and Mikhail's delivery concept was awarded the top prize. *QuickFoods* is a website and app that places all the delivery apps into a single location in order to be able to scroll through all the options in an area in one place, to find the best deals as well as the best quality

food. The website uses referral links to not only monetise the business, but also to be able to have a smooth checkout process that redirects customers back to the already completed purchase on whichever delivery companies they have chosen.

On victory, Mikhail said: "I was very surprised when the judges chose us to win the prize, but after the initial shock I was elated to be chosen by such distinguished people. It was a one-of-a-kind experience and I wanted to thank our teachers as well as the Remove pupils for organising this for us. I have learnt an immense amount about the economic market in general, as well as how to present in front of people and all the aspects of a start-up and how to format them. I am intent on continuing with economics further, and if I am delighted that I started and stuck with the project through this time."

Edward added: "I feel humbled, honoured and very proud to receive such a prestigious award from such distinguished judges. I am also very grateful to everyone in our school community who worked so hard to make this event happen. I am also grateful to my friend Michael for great teamwork and collaboration. Through this competition I discovered the importance of the brainstorming and thinking "out of the box", being creative and addressing a real problem or gap in the market with a simple solution rather than creating a solution and finding a problem it could resolve. I observed that start-ups fail exactly for that reason – they invent a solution and try to find a problem for it! I also realised the importance of thinking about the

solution from a customer's perspective – it should be simple, easy to use and provide a delightful customer experience. Complexity is not well understood, and it does not scale. And most importantly, working as a team brings diversity of ideas and great results."

Kaushal, a mentor, said: "I think the spirit behind this competition has been to promote the idea that young students, as the entrepreneurs of tomorrow, should be encouraged to develop the interest and skills of entrepreneurship. Over the months of preparation, it was great to see not only how their ideas developed, but also how they became more confident presenters and enthusiastic businesspeople."

Aryan added: "We were incredibly excited to have set up the Sir Richard Stone Innovation Competition earlier this year, and proud to see the teams develop through the weeks, culminating with a set of fantastic presentations in the two rounds of the competition. Kaden and I had taken part in a Dragons' Den style competition when we were in the Fifth Form, and having really enjoyed the experience, thought it would be fun to set up something similar as part of the Economics Society. We thought it would be a great opportunity for Fifth Formers to channel their energy and enthusiasm into an entrepreneurial project, an opportunity to bond as teams, but also to develop the many skills involved in putting together and presenting their ideas.

"It has been the most brilliant experience, and we were thrilled to learn that the Economics department plans to continue the competition in future years."



11 November 2022
WESTMINSTER REMEMBERS

In Westminster Abbey on Armistice Day, pupils processed past the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior, honouring the sacrifice of the fallen.

A service of Remembrance encouraged members of the community to appreciate the lives they lead today, and to look back and learn from events of the past.

“Remembrance Day relays the message that we must never forget the atrocities that occurred in the past, which further links to the point that society needs to develop in order to avoid the circumstances in which history could repeat itself. It is vital to share our compassion and appreciation for the loved ones of the soldiers who gave up so much in order to defend their countries.

“Remembrance Day represents a collective day of solemn reflection on a particularly tragic episode in human history. It makes us pause, even over a hundred years later, so that we can try to comprehend the colossal loss of life in one of the worst conflicts of the past.

“In honouring the sacrifices of the members of the armed forces, we feel a sense of collective mourning, a sense of solidarity and deep respect for all those who suffered on the frontline and their families back home. It is also a stark reminder of how fragile peace is, in the modern world. It is therefore our duty to continue to do everything we can, individually and collectively, to avoid a repeat of such horrible events.”

Raaghav (Upper Shell, CC)

“The Westminster School Remembrance Service is a solemn service that pays honour to the fallen and specifically to those Old Westminsters who gave their lives in battle. Remembrance does not glorify war, but honours those who served to defend our liberty and way of life in the sure hope of a peaceful future.”

Fr Dan Warnke,
Westminster School Chaplain



10 November 2022
PROMINENT BREXITEER REFLECTS ON THE CURRENT POLITICAL LANDSCAPE
Influential Tory Minister responds to questions on the EU Referendum and Northern Ireland in pupil-led Conservative Society meeting.

In a visit to Westminster School, Northern Ireland minister Steve Baker spoke of how his desire to make a difference, at a time when he was disillusioned with current affairs, led him to embark on a career in politics. Encouraging pupils to be involved in politics, the minister addressed the consequences of the EU referendum on the UK and the Northern Ireland Bill.

First elected MP for Wycombe in 2010, Steve Baker has become a well-known figure in the UK’s political arena. In October 2022, he made headlines after he apologised for what he described as his former “ferocious” stance on negotiations with the EU and the impact on relations with the Republic of Ireland. Opening the floor to questions at Westminster, it became clear that pupils have many differing views on the events that have unravelled since 2016. From questions about the Brexit campaign and its effects on today’s economy, to the Northern Ireland Bill and Mr Baker’s attempts to de-escalate tensions over the current policy, it made for a stimulating and dynamic Q&A.

Following the talk, Evan (Lower Shell, CC) said: “Being brought up in a left society, this talk displayed differing opinions and inherently taught me to accept others with differing political opinions, since Mr Baker’s aims and ambitions were relatable.”

Julian (Lower Shell, MM) added: “I think the lecture gave a lot of information on the life and political progression of Steve Baker, who is in the midst of the Conservative party, as well as the reasoning behind fundamental decisions like Brexit in the UK’s recent history.”

6 October 2022
THE DEFENCE OF FAITH BEYOND SCIENTIFIC REASONING EXPLORED BY WESTMINSTER PUPIL IN AWARD-WINNING ESSAY

An examination of modern faith and our human nature to want to look beyond scientific fact has earned a Westminster pupil a podium place in a prestigious global essay competition.

Selected from hundreds of entries to the Theology category of the 2022 John Locke Institute Essay Competition, Chloe (PP, Sixth Form) was awarded third place for her essay, *Is Faith Anything Other than Uncertain Belief on Incomplete Evidence?*, a study of the emergence of new interpretations of faith in the early twenty-first century. In considering the New Atheist stance that theological beliefs cannot be supported by logical or empirical evidence and are, therefore, meaningless, Chloe explores why such an approach to faith could be deemed as reductionist to a religious believer. She concludes by suggesting that human nature implores us to find meaning beyond simple scientific explanation and, for many, religious faith is essential in providing the foundations to do so.

The John Locke Institute’s annual, global essay competition invites young scholars to show their depth of knowledge and persuasiveness of writing across seven different subjects: philosophy, politics, economics, history, psychology, theology and law, and gives a chance for work to be read and assessed by experts from the University of Oxford. This year more than 8,000 students entered from across the globe.



In the Theology category, Chloe was placed behind only students from Australia and the USA, and across all seven categories just three UK students were placed within the top three.

As a shortlisted essayist, Chloe was invited to attend three days of lectures to debate issues surrounding theology, law and economics at the John Locke Institute, Oxford.

Chloe said of winning third prize: “The news came as a shock to me. I had read the essays of previous winners on the website, all of which were incredible, and I never dreamed that I would be able to produce anything of that level. During the awards ceremony, whilst the judges were announcing the names of people who had received a commendation for their essays, I was shivering all over because I thought they had forgotten about me. I’m still in disbelief.

“As someone who grew up in a largely secular background, I had always wanted to know more about the different and diverse worldviews across the globe. Writing to address a question that required in-depth knowledge about religion thus helped me further my understanding of individual religious communities. Putting academics aside, however, I was aware that the topic I had been exploring was extremely poignant and personal, which made writing it all the more meaningful.

“It took me around a month to research and write the essay. Initially, I had spent a week on my first draft, but afterwards I completely redrafted a second version of the essay where I changed my entire stance.”



30 September 2022
KING’S SCHOLARS ADMITTED TO WESTMINSTER AFTER SEVEN DECADES
For the first time since 1951, King’s Scholars have been inducted into the College of St Peter, by the Dean of Westminster.

At a service on Friday 30 September, the School’s 12 new Scholars joined the Abbey community by presenting their credentials to the Dean of Westminster. They are the latest in a long line of pupils to participate in a ceremony first recorded in 1542, receiving gowns as they were individually admitted, in Latin, by the Very Reverend Dr David Hoyle in front of the whole school community and family members.

The eight Fifth Form boys – who won their places through taking the School’s famous Challenge examinations – and four Sixth Form girls join College, the original School House that dates back to Queen Elizabeth I, after whom the scholarships were originally named. The new pupils had been Queen’s Scholars for just five days, before the accession of King Charles III, at which moment they and the other 36 Scholars all became King’s Scholars. Unlike in other schools and university colleges, it is Westminster tradition to change the name of the Scholars between King and Queen to reflect the current monarch.

King’s Scholars play a unique role in the life of Westminster School, being part of Elizabeth I’s Royal Foundation of the College of St Peter, which encompasses both Westminster School and Westminster Abbey. They attend certain Abbey services, and have other ceremonial duties to perform in connection with the Abbey and the Crown. Notably, they have historically had a role in the monarch’s coronation. The monarch retains the position of Visitor at the School, and Westminster has a long history of royal visits and patronage. ➡

Following the return of the title King’s Scholars, Sylvie (Remove, CC), Captain of the King’s Scholars said: “To be called King’s Scholars sounded a little peculiar to all of us at first, I think. We were so accustomed to being the Queen’s Scholars. It has obviously been 70 years since there were King’s Scholars at Westminster, and it’s nice to think there are female King’s Scholars now for the first time; and, as Captain, it is unusual to be Captain of both the King’s Scholars and Queen’s Scholars during the same year. It is an extraordinary experience.”

She added “It has been surprising to me how much you do appreciate the history of being a Scholar at Westminster. There are the traditions, such as wearing gowns and attending weekly Compline in Abbey by candlelight, and there is the general feeling of being part of something. Life in College as a boarder, though, is very similar to in other Houses. Plenty of time is spent in the common room and the kitchen; and it is great to live in the heart of the School. The sense of longevity of being a King’s Scholar and feeling connected to the Abbey and the history of our role is unlike any other in the School.”



The newly elected king's scholars reflected on the special privilege of being inducted into college.

Vincent (Fifth Form, CC): “It’s an incredible feeling, to be a part of this deep royal tradition hundreds of years old which I would never have expected a year ago. At times it feels rather surreal, if I’m honest, especially now that we are the first King’s Scholars in 70 years. That being said, usually I just feel like the average schoolboy joining secondary school, and I’m excited to see what lies ahead at this school.”

Jeremy (Fifth Form, CC): “It obviously feels surreal to be where I am given the extraordinary circumstances in which we find ourselves. In addition to my experience so far with traditions such as Compline, I have the odd yet thrilling sensation that we as a cohort are part of a historical sequence of events. Hopefully I may live up to the expectations that such a privilege will demand.”

Tej (Fifth Form, CC): “I am happy with being a King’s Scholar and grateful to be in this position.”

Chengxiang (Fifth Form, CC): “As a King’s Scholar, I feel lucky to be such an integral part of the British culture and history.”

Emir (fifth Form, CC): “I feel most privileged to be a King’s Scholar: it comes with responsibilities, but also ultimately brings me pride. One of the best things that come with the scholarship is, without doubt, the tradition. I particularly enjoy Compline, a weekly event in St Faith’s Chapel, and I am looking forward to the Remembrance Sunday Eucharist. The prestige of being part of this institution is simply surreal.”

Moahnishan (Fifth Form, CC): “I feel proud to have achieved such a feat and I feel as if the hard work and sleepless nights I sacrificed for the Challenge paid off.”

Aarav (Fifth Form, CC): “I feel like being a King’s Scholar comes with many opportunities, and we get to be a part of a traditional history. It is exciting, there is something new to take part in almost every week, and we get offered many privileges.”

Cheryl (Sixth Form, CC): “It’s an honour – to be a part of a tradition dating back to Elizabeth I and to be so intimately connected to the Abbey, not to mention being in College, with the loveliest people, matron’s cakes and chess as a pastime.”

Louisa (Sixth Form, CC): “I feel excited and particularly honoured. It feels amazing continuing traditions that have been performed for such a long time. Having that special connection to the Abbey is something incredible.”

Ira (Sixth Form, CC): “At a time like this, there is a real palpable connection between the School and Westminster Abbey, which makes it all so much special.”

Ingrid (Sixth Form, CC): “It is very exciting to be a King’s Scholar and be part of this school legacy. It is something very profound to become a King’s Scholar, especially in light of the recent events. It feels like being part of something bigger than any of us.”



29 September 2022
OWW RUN TO SERPENTINE VICTORY WHILE ELODIE AND NICHOLAS STAR FOR THE SCHOOL

Westminster’s Jim Forrest Serpentine Cup was won by alumni, who boasted five of the fastest seven competitors in the annual 4k race around Hyde Park, led by Toby Evans (MM 2019–2021).

Elodie (Remove, LL) won the handicap competition, which sees runners set off on staggered starts, as she was the first runner to cross the line, whilst Nicholas (Lower Shell, GG) was the fastest pupil in an astonishing time of 14:08.

School staff put up two runners (NAF and REM), coming in a respectable 3rd and 6th in the handicap.

The Serpentine Cup was renamed after Jim Forrest (OL1962), founding secretary of the School’s cross country club, following his death in 2019.

23 September 2022
THE UK’S HOUSING ‘CONUNDRUM’ EXPLORED IN A LEVEL PUPIL’S GLOBALLY COMMENDED ESSAY

The 2022 John Locke Institute Essay Competition asked young economists, including remove pupil Lydia (Remove, II), to write on one of four subjects, with top prizes and commendations awarded to students from around the world.

Writing on what is wrong with the housing market and how it can be fixed, focusing on the issue here in the UK, Lydia looked at a broad range of factors, such as insufficient supply leading to a high cost of living, the increasing number of buyers, and high prices leading to poor overcrowding in single homes. She also looked at what could be done to help remedy what she calls the ‘housing conundrum’ pointing towards a “true solution” which “lies in better navigating the politics of the real world”, making it “necessary to address the powerful developer lobbies so as to best introduce welfare improving schemes.”

The John Locke Institute’s annual, global essay competition invites young scholars to show their depth of knowledge and persuasiveness of writing across seven different subjects: philosophy, politics, economics, history, psychology, theology and law, and gives a chance for work to be read and assessed by experts from the University of Oxford.

Reflecting on her commendation, Lydia said: “Writing the essay gave me the opportunity to do extensive research on a topic that I’m unfamiliar with, and it strengthened my critical thinking skills, as I had to make original arguments and pose solutions to the problem.

“It also provided me with another perspective in analysing different topics, which were very helpful.”





22 September 2022

EN GARDE! WESTMINSTER ÉPÉE FENCER'S WINNING EDGE SECURES HIM MULTIPLE VICTORIES AT INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

Representing England in the Commonwealth Fencing Championships, a Remove pupil took on athletes from all over the world to win a full sweep of gold medals.

Alec (Remove, LL), who is currently number one in the British Junior Men's Épée rankings, took home four gold medals after his first-ever appearance at the championships in August. Achieving gold in the individual Cadet (U17) and Junior (U20) épée categories, and being part of the winning teams for both age groups, Alec excelled in a series of exciting and tense matches at the University of East London's SportsDock centre.

Alec (Remove, LL) said: "My first commonwealths was a special experience. There were lots of strong fencers from all corners of the world – in particular Canada, Australia and India. The tournament has a unique prestige and an especially friendly environment, and being at home created a great atmosphere."

21 September 2022

TRAGEDY TO TRIUMPH? WESTMINSTER ESSAYIST REACHES COMPETITION FINAL LOOKING AT GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION

An examination of the international community's response to the climate crisis has seen a sixth form politics pupil reach the final of a prestigious humanities and social science writing competition.

Konstantinos (Remove, HH) reached the final selection – the top 5% of over 6,000 entries – of the Northeastern University London Essay Competition, and was awarded a medal and certificate for his politics essay on the title 'How prepared is the international community to address the current climate crisis'.

The Northeastern (previously New College of the Humanities) Competition provides opportunities for Year 12 students who are interested in studying humanities or social sciences at university and attracts entries from across the UK in ten areas of study including business, law, politics and psychology.

In his essay, Konstantinos (Remove, HH) charted the great difficulties facing governments and other bodies worldwide, but said "if more weight and pressure is added to implement the necessary but feasible measures, there is still a chance to turn this tale of tragedy into a triumph."

Having reached the final of the competition, Konstantinos said: "I was elated to find out I was selected as a finalist. I spent a month researching the topic, reading multiple journals, articles, and scientific studies on the subject before beginning to write the essay."

The experience allowed me to explore a subject I was very interested in but wanted to examine even further. The intersection between environmental concerns, governmental organisations, and social awareness is an area of deep personal interest. I learnt the process of efficiently researching, having to read lengthy academic papers without getting lost in the technical language and detail. I investigated the role of political marches in engaging collective action, emphasising the power of the people to influence those in positions to exert direct control

over societal outcomes. Ultimately, I determined that without appropriate policies, funding, and climate education efforts at local, national, and international levels, working in tandem to aid developing countries without these infrastructures, we will be ill-equipped."



14 July 2022

WESTMINSTER CAPTURES NATIONAL CHESS CROWN FOR THE FIRST TIME

Westminster's young chess team went unbeaten as they topped the 19-school league after two full days of competition.

England's national school's chess trophy is to have a new name engraved on it, after Westminster triumphed in the 64-year-old competition for the first time.

The team of six pupils lifted the cup after two days and five matches, which saw them take four victories and one tie at the tournament in Stratford-upon-Avon.

The tournament draw looked tough for the Westminster team, with matches against the two top-seeded schools, Haberdashers' Boys' School and King's College School Wimbledon, as well as Winchester College, St Paul's School and Queen Elizabeth's School Barnet. The finals tournament was the culmination of a longer regional competition which had begun in January, when Westminster dispatched

the reigning national champions, City of London School, to take their place at Stratford. Going into the tournament ranked third, the team played positively to go unbeaten, led by team captain Ilya (Remove, AHH) and a spectacular solo performance from Sebastiano (Lower Shell, GG), who went five from five in his matches.

Master in Charge of Chess, Ezra Lutton, said: "I am really happy for this team and their achievement. To be the first Westminster team to be national schools champions is something they should be very proud of and with more and more talent coming up through the school there is a good chance they will be the first of many Westminsters to be able to lift this trophy. With only Ilya leaving the School this year we look in good shape for the 2022-23 season."

To be the first Westminster team to be national schools champions is something they should be very proud of.



News from the OWW Community

Paul Castle, (CC, 1976-80)

In 2022, Paul Castle (CC, 1976-80) provided rowing and canoeing commentary at the European Championships in Munich. He contributed a chapter on local-language radio to "African multilingualism and the Agenda 2030" (ISBN 978-3-643-80281-1), and after a four-year process became a Swiss citizen.

Richard Macrory, (LL, 1963-68)

Richard Macrory (LL 1963-1968) has been appointed a non-executive director of the Office for Environmental Protection (OEP). The OEP is a new independent public body, set up in 2021 to hold government and other public bodies to account for breaches of environmental law. Richard is Emeritus Professor in Environmental Law at University College London.

House Reports

The Old Grantite Club

The making of the history of Grants and the Old Grantite Club

The Old Grantite Club held an AGM in early 2021, when the question of updating the History was discussed. Previous editions had been produced in 1959 by Lawrence Tanner and in 1986 by Simon Mundy (GG 1968-72), with the help of Paul Hooper (GG 1968-72) and Tim Woods (GG 1969-74).

In the intervening period of thirty five years the world had undergone seismic changes and apart from the facade of No 2 Little Dean’s Yard, very little had been left untouched. It was therefore suggested that Messrs. Mundy, Hooper, and Woods should set about writing a new History to cover this period, to be funded by the Old Grantite Club and the Elizabethan Club to whom we are most grateful.

The initial aim was to write a social history of the House, drawing on the experiences of past and present Housemasters, Matrons and Heads of House, as well as others with strong connections to the House. As well as the changes in everyday routine, it was also our intention to discover how the House and its occupants fitted into an ever-changing society. Letters were therefore sent to almost one hundred individuals asking for their thoughts on such diverse matters as the introduction of girls, clothes, music, computers, food, cafés, pubs, drugs, sex, racism, bullying, exams, uniform, traditions, sport, boarding, and other matters with the aim of piecing together a social history.

Replies were slow in coming back (some things never change), but with the help of all but one previous Housemaster, we were able to contact key individuals who put pen to paper and came up with some fascinating memories of their times Up Grants. Several multi-generational families were approached for comparisons, with Elizabeth Wells in the School Archive Department providing invaluable photographs and advice. As a result of GDPR restrictions, all initial communication had to be directed via the Development Office, to whom we are very grateful.

By late 2021 the production team had gathered together most of the material that was likely to be forthcoming and

useful. Dominic Grieve (GG 1969-1974) agreed to write the foreword, following in the footsteps of Adrian Boulton in 1959 and David Hornsby in 1986, and an updated History of the Club was produced. Finally the roll calls of House Masters, Heads of House, and Presidents of the Club were updated.

At various production meetings it was agreed to produce one document containing all three histories and to ensure that it was available to all in both hardback and soft copy. Unfortunately, the first two volumes were not available online but this problem was eventually overcome. With the input from such a wide variety of sources, and covering seven generations of Grantites, the job of stitching everything together was handed over to Simon Mundy and Oonagh Connolly who brought her professional graphic design skills to collate the project.

Then followed a number of draft copies, all of which had to be proof read (apologies for any spelling or other factual mistakes still remaining), and in at least one case legal advice was sought to prevent any potential libel issues. Each contributor was then asked for their comments and amendments to their part of the document while the team then had to select the best and most relevant photographs. After almost a year the team’s deliberations turned to such technical points as the type of spine, texture and colour of the paper, as well as the print type, before the ISBN was obtained and the finished item was despatched to the printers. On receipt, copies were sent to the Legal Deposit Libraries in Scotland and England as well as the School’s Archive Department for future Old Westminster’s to enjoy.

Anecdotes continue to be received, months after the History was published, and apologies if not every tale could be included, but we hope that we were able to draw together a wide cross-section of thoughts and memories of Grants and the Old Grantite Club up until 2021. Our advice to future Old Grantites who are considering such a project is not to leave it so long next time!

Floreat

College Society

The College Society Committee have been in contact, and we were able to publish the long-awaited College Society Newsletter, including updates from across the alumni.

While we were not able to host events in this academic year, the College Society Dinner and AGM will be returning this autumn to College Hall, so please do save the date of Wednesday, September 20th. Invitations will go out later this year, and we hope many of you will be able to join us at our first event at the School since 2019.

We will soon start working on the 2023 Newsletter, so please do send through your updates, memories, photos, to **collegesocietynewsletter@gmail.com** if you would like to contribute to the next issue.

Wishing you all well

Arda Eghiayan

Chairman:
Oliver Gillie (CC 1955-58)
[e. oliver.gillie@outlook.com](mailto:e.oliver.gillie@outlook.com)

For membership details: Hon Sec
Arda Eghiayan (CC 2000-2002)
[e. arda.eghiayan@gmail.com](mailto:e.arda.eghiayan@gmail.com)

Dates for your Diary 2023

Wednesday 20th September
College House Dinner

Friday 29th September
Sports Dinner

Thursday 23rd November
Elizabethan Club Dinner

Friday 1st December
Elizabethan Club Carol Service

There will be more events announced in the coming weeks, so please do keep an eye on your inbox.

The Old Westminster’s Lodge

Casper Lawson (RR, 1977-80)

The School’s oldest alumni society, the Old Westminster’s Lodge, meets four times a year. A dinner at the end of May is open to all, and provides a good opportunity to find out more about the ancient institution of Freemasonry.

One of London’s air ambulances, saving lives daily, lands in Parliament Square



The world has changed enormously since the first Masonic lodges formed more than half a millennium ago, but the principles stay the same: to meet in friendship and celebrate what unites us regardless of background; to try to make ourselves the best persons that we can be; and to help others especially through charity.

A significant example of charity benefiting the whole community is the support given by London Freemasons to help keep the London air ambulances flying. If you see one of these helicopters close up, look for the square and compasses and acknowledgement for this support on the side. These amazing vehicles, pilots and medics get to critically injured people in just minutes, when time really matters. An average of five people every day in London need their help when their lives are on the line. The air ambulance service is a charity so without voluntary support it would stop running. London Masons have given them over £2.5 million over the last eight years, and recently pledged another £3 million

to help replace the helicopters with the next generation. London Masons are justifiably proud of their part in supporting this worthy organisation which has saved thousands of Londoners’ lives.

The Old Westminster’s Lodge welcomes men young and old who are alumni of the School, as pupils or staff, or have some other sufficiently close connection with the School. Meetings are taken seriously, followed by a relaxed, convivial dinner in one of the most impressive dining rooms in the country. To find out how to join in this ‘serious fun’, or just to find out more about the Lodge, please browse the website **oldwestminsterslodge.org** or send an email: **sec@oldwestminsterslodge.org**. Enquiries are also welcome from women interested in becoming Freemasons, who will be put in touch with one of the many women’s lodges which also have a long and fascinating history.

Visit our website at
www.oldwestminsterslodge.org

I was very fortunate to be a Queens Scholar in College, in my last year at Westminster, in 1953. The previous year King George VI had died. I remember the whole School assembled in Yard to stand in silence in his memory. I went to the King's Lying-in State in Westminster Hall, an impressive and affecting display. At this time we had no thoughts of a Coronation.



A Queen's Coronation from the eye of a Queen's Scholar

By Sven Tester (QS, 1948-53)

Soon, however, the Abbey was closed so that lots of extra seating and facilities ('Elsan 55s', I remember!), could be installed for the ceremony. We had to have our assemblies and evening compline elsewhere. I greatly missed being in the Abbey. And then we realised we had a part to play. The forty Kings/Queens Scholars had of course, been bidden by our Founder, Queen Elizabeth I, to greet the new Monarch when he or she entered the Abbey at the Coronation with Latin 'Vivats'. This greeting had been incorporated in the Coronation anthem by Parry 'I was glad when they said unto me, 'We will go into the House of the Lord...' which is sung at the start of the ceremony. Parry pitched the 'Vivats' rather high (I and most of my

contemporaries had gruff broken voices) and we began intensive practice to get everyone to the right pitch. After a while, we had practices in the Abbey. This was wonderful – we started hearing music like 'Zadok the Priest' and our 'I was glad' properly and we saw lots of musicians, like Vaughan Williams, Walton and others who had written music for the Coronation. Ceremonial rehearsals were presided over by the Earl Marshal, the Duke of Norfolk, wearing a morning suit, a coronet and a trailing microphone into which he barked orders. He was commanding, polite and very successful at it (I persuaded him to give a talk to the School about it all, which he did, with grace and high humour).

On the day, we got up very early and donned our newly bought knee breeches, silver-buckled shoes and our robes, and went to the Jerusalem Chamber by the Abbey where the Coronation Regalia had been assembled. We took part in a small procession to the High Altar where the Regalia was blessed, and then processed with the items through a now packed Abbey nave to the West Door Pavilion where they awaited the Queen's arrival. Because some of the Westminster Canons who should have carried items of the Regalia were physically unable to do so, two Scholars actually carried sceptres in the procession. I was sorry to miss out on this! We then climbed flights of stairs to our position in the Triforium, high by the Abbey roof, just above the Organ Loft which housed the Orchestra (with Sir Adrian Boult) and the Trumpeters. We could see more or less the whole Abbey from this point. There were various plans, involving complicated signalling, to ensure that Parry's anthem was timed precisely so that 'our bit' came just as the Queen entered the Abbey. In fact, it worked easily, and our months of rehearsals paid off. We made quite a good noise! I still thrill when I hear it on record. After that we relaxed, but I found the whole ceremony totally enthralling, and we could see and hear it perfectly. At first it was the music and colour which enveloped us, but we were also profoundly moved by the spectacle of the young and beautiful Queen taking on these awesome responsibilities, with the heartfelt support of the gathering in the Abbey and the whole nation outside. There was one minor disappointment. It was rumoured that the Peers and Peeresses secreted their refreshments for the very long ceremony in their coronets as they came to their seats. At one point in the ceremony they all stand up and put their coronets on. We were hoping for a shower of sandwiches, smoked salmon and perhaps champagne, to descend. Alas, they must have been warned, and it didn't happen. The Coronation was truly memorable; I was amazingly lucky to have been a part of it, and I still remember almost every moment. And I was awarded a medal for being there! ■

A Personal Reminiscence of the Coronation

The 40 King's Scholars of Westminster School, living in the house named 'College', heard on the morning of February 1952 that the death of King George VI overnight had made them now Queen's Scholars. Among them were my brother Geoffrey and myself, but I cannot remember how soon it occurred to us all how this would affect our lives the following year. The constitution of the school drawn up during the reign of the first Queen Elizabeth had made the scholars servants of Westminster Abbey, with special duties on royal occasions. At a coronation service they were to shout the nation's first 'official' acclaim of the new monarch in recognition of his or her entitlement to the crown – in this case "Vivat, Vivat Regina Elizabetha". In practice this shout had acquired a musical character, which posed a difficulty for a group selected solely on grounds of academic ability, because some of its members would have little or no ear for a tune. So, once 2 June 1953 had been chosen as the date, rehearsals got under way, led initially by the school's Director of Music and then by myself as Captain of the scholars, when we met weekly for the purpose. Also needed were the measurements for each boy's coronation costume, demonstrated by the illustration showing myself as no.34 in the Evening Standard's series of these. Rehearsals of the whole service in the Abbey found us placed high in the north triforium above the choir, with wide views of the activity below. I recall on one of these occasions seeing the top of Vaughan Williams' tousled head as he conducted the orchestra. The day itself we got up early for breakfast, to be met by two important items of news. A few days earlier the summit of Mt. Everest had been reached for the first time by Hillary and Tenzing; and the name of England's top footballer, Stanley Matthews, had appeared for a knighthood in the Birthday Honours. On reaching the Abbey we were involved in a minor procession before climbing to our position for the long wait until trumpets announced the Queen's arrival. Part of this time was occupied by a sandwich lunch. When the ceremony began with the superb choral and orchestral rendering of Parry's anthem 'I was glad' our attention – and mine in particular – was drawn to the wide organ loft below us. The Vivats were to come in a break between the two sections of the anthem, but not before the Queen appeared from under the organ loft, when two massive chords introduced the space for our shouts. That moment could be judged only from above, where I stood holding above my head a coloured handkerchief, which I brought down rapidly as the signal the organist was looking for. The atmosphere in the Abbey, with its crowds, its colours and its sounds added up to an experience that for most would never be matched; but for the younger participants who still survive it will remain at least a vivid memory. I am so grateful that it came in my last term at school. ■ Michael Willoughby (QS, 1948-53)

Coronation Costumes

No. 34.—A Queen's Scholar of Westminster School



A special white poplin surplice is worn over a morning coat. Black knee-breeches and matching stockings are worn with black patent, silver-buckled shoes. He carries white gloves and a mortarboard.

Crowd Scene

By Sylvie Pearson (CC)

The excitement of the grand State Occasion comes from the tension between spectacle and jeopardy. The line between perfection and calamity can be a fine one: what could go wrong in choreography and timing is manifold; what does go obviously wrong is usually nothing at all.

Perhaps it was with this requirement for tension in mind that the brave decision was made to allow the massed KSS of 2023 a role at the Coronation. The presence of Scholars to proclaim the Vivat is one rooted in tradition: in a similarly bold if less well-documented move, a portaloo was to be winched into the vaulting arches of the Abbey on account of the length of the build-up to our big moment on 6 May. A risky manoeuvre executed with confidence, in the finest traditions of the State Occasion and, some would say, of College too.

The sense of the surreal required in order to shift seamlessly from school timetable to ancient ritual is all in a day’s work for a 21st Century King’s Scholar. Slotted neatly between CIE Biology A Level Papers 2 and 4, and directly following IGCSE History (20th Century), the scheduling of the event was considerate, and perhaps a little ironic. At such times as the proclamation of a new King, there is contemplation on matters of dynasty, something in fact highly relevant to the A-Level Biology syllabus with its sections on genes, natural selection, and inheritance. Such things also incite discussion of probability, and the good fortune of being a Westminster Scholar at the key moment: 17 Coronations since the founding of the school, 2856 scholars in total... whatever the odds they are longish, and we were very fortunate to be here at this moment in history.

While the time spent waiting for the historic event to begin gave plenty of time for such intellectual musing, rehearsals for the big day, however, did not. These were conducted in urgent, bite-sized chunks with a level of security that would impress MI5.

Dr Savage did not exactly stand sniper guard, but entrances to the

MMC were ferociously Manned, by Mr Mann. As far as the singing of what became colloquially known as “the vivats” went, we toiled: and we feel great sympathy for Mr Garrard, provided with another fabulous opportunity to showcase Westminster Music on another grand stage – and to have KSS as his rude clay. We can only acclaim his generosity in describing the preparations to visiting journalists as “fascinating” and “enjoyable” and (with more ambiguous emphasis) “fun”, and accept his judgment that we are (to paraphrase) “not a professional choir...more crowd scene” (Reuters, 28 April 2023).

Of course, there are talented singers among us: sadly, they are not in the majority, but again, all narrative arcs require jeopardy before absolution. Would we pull it off when the big moment came? Should we position the real singers closest to the microphone?

If the Coronation resembles a wedding in parts, then we had both the Old (take your pick) and the New (box fresh surplines of suitably billowing marshmallow majesty, guarded night and day by Matron, and as if we were Victorian children causing concerns about jammy fingers, only released to us by her at the last minute on the proviso that we did not even consider sitting down). The dress rehearsal with its glimpses behind the scenes, its compère and its stand-in dressed-up “king” was in many ways the most interesting part: some metaphor for School and Real Life there, perhaps. School on the day before was ghostly, summoning memories of that other, far less joyful, “time-of-our-lives”, though it is certainly true we preferred being locked in to locked out. In school alone, we stockpiled supplies, we had breakfast in isolation. All 44 of us were ready to begin.

We were willing when it came to it, subdued, serious, as we felt the hands of if not history then generations of previous scholars on our shoulders. Living locally, the final leg of our quest was thankfully short: we nipped round to the Great West Door in the drizzle at 9.50, though many others had been in their seats for hours. The Abbey looked glorious: did we rise to the challenge when the cameras moved off the entering monarchs and panned upwards to us for the critical 12 secs? Of course. We were good, I think, in loud voice and the right level of jubilant, some said the best since film records began. We saw the act of the two crowns being placed first-hand, and milling afterwards, we were congratulated and photographed by more than one departing Head of State. It was over, we had done it for King Charles, for the glory of Westminster, but most of all to make Mr Mann proud, and I think we did.

There is a rumour, probably apocryphal, that when filling in a survey on uses of chapels at school, an (unnamed) previous Head Master of Westminster answered “assemblies, carol services, Coronations etc”. I suppose for a month or two this happens to be true. For me, the night before the Big Day was the last one ever that I would spend drifting off to sleep as Big Ben chimed (and then again, and then again, like... clockwork). I wondered if King Charles felt the end of things and the beginning of other things in the same way. I expect beforehand we both felt nostalgia and nerves in equal measure. Biology A level permitting I will embark on new life come October. Things are changing, and there is nothing either of us can do to hold them. ■



GIRLS ALOUD

By Amelia Ross (CC)

50 years of female voices at Westminster

In the July 1972 edition of *The Elizabethan*, Head Master John Rae speculates on Westminster’s future as a school with regard to contemporary political concerns. One of the topics he touches on is co-education, a subject which he claims “inspires insincerity” as many Public Schools have turned towards partial co-education, introducing small numbers of girls to fill empty spaces and present the move as evidence of progressive thinking. ►►



Studying in dormitory

Rae suggests that whilst “A single-sex intellectual elite may seem to be an unattractive, even unpopular, role to play”, he thinks it is “unlikely that Westminster will change this role in the near future”. The logistics of introducing girls fully to the school appear too impractical, although Rae does note that “Westminster would have much to gain from co-education”, keen for his daughters to benefit from attending School.

Despite doubts, a mere year later in 1973, girls would formally be introduced to Westminster. It seemed that this formalised development, if done successfully, had great potential to generate genuine, positive change in the school.

The integration of girls into Westminster has been gradual to put it lightly...a 50-year process in the making! Although girls first became

formal pupils in 1973, the size of their intake would increase from a mere handful, bit by bit over the years. The selection process initially consisted of an informal interview, admitting only day girls who often had siblings who were Westminster pupils, or who were keen to do science and lacked the necessary facilities at their schools. Gradually Westminster’s academic system became more streamlined making it easier to integrate girls, and more female members of the Common Room were also introduced.

There is still a long way to go now, but even in the last decade, we have taken necessary steps on the road towards equality and eventually full co-education, with the first female scholars elected in 2017, and the first girls’ Greaze taking place this year. But what can we learn from the varied experiences of girls at Westminster over the past half-century, and can we



Left: Little Deans Yard
Top: Students in classroom
Above: Students sitting exams

shed light on the present changing values of the school by reflecting on the past?

In the Archives over the past two years, I have been taking part in the school’s Oral History project with our School Archivist and Records Manager, Ms Elizabeth Wells. This project involves interviewing selected Old Westminsters about their lives and experiences at the school and afterwards, so that these can be recorded for future generations. Oral history has enhanced my understanding of recording history more generally, not only revealing hidden nuances not captured by written word such as the subtleties of sarcasm, wit and irony, but moreover highlighting the value of being able to listen to and engage with these raw and genuine first-hand accounts. What has been perhaps most interesting to grasp, is how the experiences of individuals have shaped their memories

of the school, and moreover their current perceptions of it. As the 50-year anniversary of girls being admitted to Westminster approaches, we have turned our recent focus to reaching out to and interviewing some of our most inspirational Westminster alumnae.

From such a plethora of accomplished and inspiring women to interview, it was difficult to narrow our list down. This year, the four women we have been lucky enough to speak with have shared their stories, each one strikingly unique, and in conversation raised a variety of thought-provoking speculations about Westminster School in both the past and the present. Imogen Stubbs (CC, 1977-79) recalled her memories of being one of few girls in a house of scholars, and reminisced on the academic pressures on pupils and how they have changed in recent years. Beyond the classroom, we also heard about her exploits in music and drama, evidently

preceding her fame as a star of stage and screen. Her contemporary, the accomplished screenwriter, TV producer and novelist Daisy Goodwin (AA, 1977-79), spoke further about the social environment of Westminster and its pressures on girls in particular, considering what it takes to thrive at Westminster, and how the legacy of the school has impacted her later life. We also heard from Professor Polly Arnold OBE (BB, 1988-90) – outnumbered as a girl studying STEM on her daily trepidatious journey to the classrooms of Hooke, (I admire her for not being put off by the stairs, as I was!), and also a keen mountain climber and craftswoman: later, she would continue to fight for diversity and gender equality in the field of science, as a world-renowned chemist. Finally, Kate Arnold-Foster (WW, 1973-75) was one of the very first girls to attend the school, and she shared her experiences of ➡



Above: Ashburnham House, 1979
Right: Purcells



You can listen to the Oral History interviews on the online catalogue for Westminster School's Archive & Collections, which can be accessed via collections.westminster.org.uk

intimidating yet enlightening History lessons in Ashburnham House, a subject which she would go on to pursue in her impressive career as a curator. This allowed us important space for reflection on the ethics of a Westminster education, and the school's privileged reputation.

Not only has hearing these eminent women speak been extremely inspiring, it has also revealed more personal stories about what went on at Westminster for girls in the past. There have of course been universal changes in social attitudes of the school that have been picked up in many of the interviews, concerning uniform, station choices, and how girls were treated in the classroom. Yet the alumnae also shared small, funny anecdotes that have prevailed in their memories of Westminster. These range from extravagant Valentine's Days, badly organised school trips, and using

Hymn books as ping pong bats, to sneaking out of school past 17 Dean's Yard to walk around London at night, and even climbing up the scaffolding on the side of Westminster Abbey!

It seems that whilst all the interviews have differed, with our alumnae painting their unique recollections of the school in their own shades, what remained universal was an appreciative sentiment from being able to benefit from a Westminster education, something perhaps only fully understood with hindsight. Girls have only been at Westminster for a mere 10% of its time as a school, yet already they have become a vital part of its history. Not only has the addition of girls positively enhanced the school's community, this has assisted in moulding the school to adapt in a healthier, forward-thinking society. Sharing memories of the school in the Oral History Project has

shown me how girls have both been shaped by Westminster, but more importantly how they themselves have contributed to its legacy.

Westminster has undoubtedly changed for the better since Rae first introduced girls, and his observation in *The Elizabethan* in 1972 has certainly rung true: Westminster has had much to gain from co-education. However, we must strike a balance between maintaining traditions and enacting necessary further change, to develop the fundamental ethos of the school. As we progress into the next 50 years, we should continue to share more stories from the numerous influential female role models that make up our Westminster alumnae, and inspire further generations who will, undoubtedly, soon join their ranks. ■



Studying in the library

BOOKSHELF

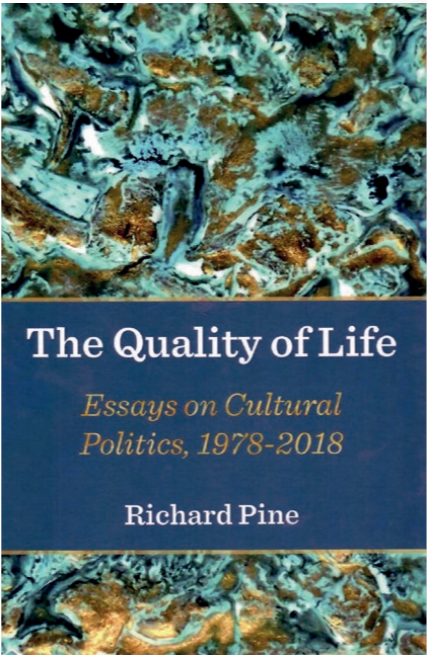
Thoughts on The Quality of Life: essays on cultural politics 1978-2018

Richard Pine, (AHH, 1962-66)

It is no hyperbole to say that what I experienced at Westminster was profoundly formative, because what happened both inside and outside the classroom was a *learning experience*. We learned our lessons, of course, but it was *how*, rather than *what*, we were taught that mattered. Looking at the essays I wrote in the 1970s, I now think: How young, how naive we were, so innocent in our aspirations, uncontaminated by reality. We were uttering gross acts of faith, and today faith is both unfashionable and unprofitable, in a world without signposts to meaning. Issues like media ownership and the right to communicate are as vital, and dangerous, today as they were in the 1970s.

It is a daunting, and sobering, fact that so many of the social, political and cultural changes we considered essential for our survival remain aspirational. I can easily understand the frustration of young people today – especially those without an occupation or who have lost their roots or connections – at the poverty of politics,

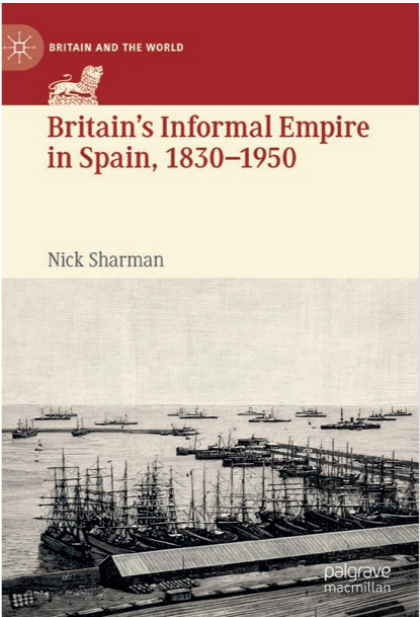
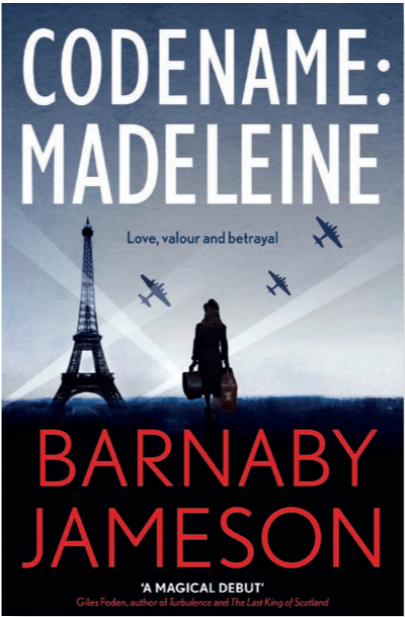
the lack of statesmanship – and, indeed, leadership – and the diminishment and cheapening of cultural values, the globalisation of anonymity. It is my concern for the “quality of life” in *all* its aspects – social, political, cultural, economic – which encouraged me to collect some of my essays. “Cultural politics” is my codeword for the convergence of our personal and public lives, the interaction of what F S L Lyons called “the furniture of men’s kitchens and the furniture of their minds”. Everything I have written about “quality of life” implies an environmental responsibility and a respect for the oxygen of others. If we diminish another’s quality of life we diminish our own. It is this need for cohesion in our thinking that characterises the contemporary debate, as it did back in the 1970s. We are polluting the planet to death because, culturally, we are joyriding the universe. We seem to have no idea who we are, or why. These days, when the private schools, elitism and networking are under scrutiny, privilege is to be cherished, not abused.



My essays remain acts of faith which I consider important not only for myself and my family and associates but indicative of the fact that all the writers and composers whose work it has been my privilege to discuss regard these as necessary faiths, linked to necessary imaginations. What I have written across the territory of music, drama, literature and communication represents the crucial interface between our cultural lives and our political lives. They are a retrospect that affirms – if we can use such an old-fashioned term, with its resonance of positive, passionate commitment – the importance of exploring issues of identity, expression and *imagination*. And it is this latter factor, imagination, which is so much at risk. To contradict Goya, it is not the sleep of reason that breeds monsters, but the sleep of imagination. *Richard Pine’s The Quality of Life: essays on cultural politics 1978-2018 is published by Cambridge Scholars Publishing.*

CODENAME: MADELEINE Barnaby Jameson KC (RR, 1981-85)

Barnaby Jameson is a KC with expertise in counter-terrorism. He has been involved in some of the most notorious terrorist cases of the century including plots to overthrow governments, plots to assassinate MPs and terrorist bombings in the UK and overseas. His work has brought him into contact with clandestine agencies around the globe. *CODENAME: MADELEINE* is based on real life agents of the top-secret wartime Special Operations Executive (SOE) set up in 1940 to carry out dangerous espionage and sabotage operations in Nazi-occupied Europe. The book has a global canvas centred on France where Barnaby studied at university before reading history (haphazardly) at Cambridge. Away from court, Barnaby is found kitesurfing in the Atlantic off Essaouira, Morocco, or in the wine-dark waters of the Aegean. *CODENAME: MADELEINE* is Barnaby’s début novel in ‘The Resistance’ series. His second book, *CODENAME: GOD-GIVEN*, is due out in November 2023.

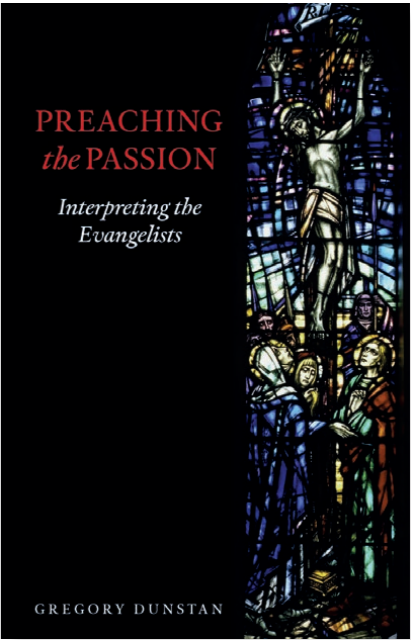


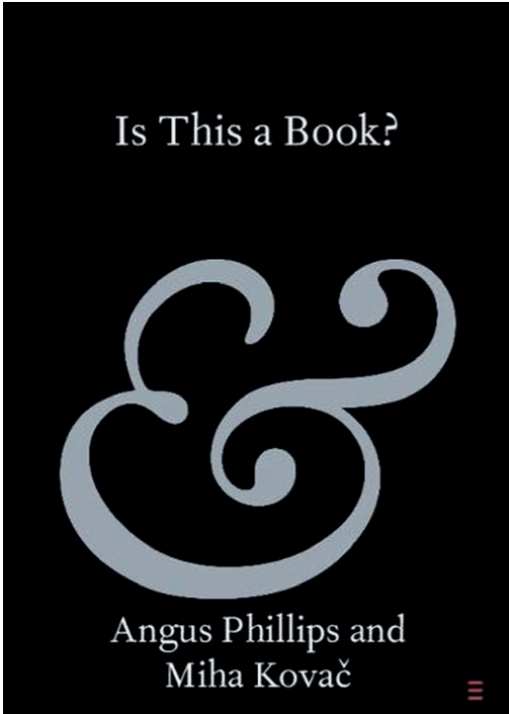
Britain’s Informal Empire in Spain, 1830-1950 Nick Sharman, (AHH 1961-65)

Nick Sharman is a Research Fellow at the University of Nottingham where his subject is the economic and political relationship between Britain and Spain in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. He has had a Board-level career in business and local and regional government and has written widely on regeneration issues in local and regional Government. He is currently researching the impact of British economic thinking on the development of liberalism in nineteenth century Spain. His book, *Britain’s Informal Empire in Spain, 1830-1950: Free Trade, Protectionism and Military Power*, was published by Palgrave Macmillan in 2021. His article, *Liberal Protectionism in Nineteenth Century Spain: An Alternative Route to Economic Modernization*, has just been published in the US-based Bulletin for Spanish and Portuguese Historical Studies.

Preaching the Passion Gregory Dunstan (CC, 1964-68)

Sacristy Press, of Durham, have recently published my ‘Preaching the Passion: Interpreting the Evangelists’. This consists of six series of Holy Week sermons, and five for Easter Day, exploring each evangelist’s treatment of the Passion in his own terms. Most of the work was done while I was Rector of St Matthew’s, Shankill, Belfast, twenty-odd years ago, but only in retirement have I had time to prepare it for publication.





Is This a Book?
Angus Phillips (AHH, 1974-78)

Phillips has recently published his latest book, *Is This a Book?* with co-author Miha Kovač. Professor Angus Phillips is Director of the Oxford International Centre for Publishing and works as a consultant to the publishing industry, often speaking at international conferences and events. His books have been translated into seven languages. In an established career centred around the creation and distribution of books, it is no wonder that his most recent publication questions the very medium of the book itself.

Put rather simply, *Is This a Book?* is a book about the book. But it is not a simple topic that Phillips and Kovač delve into in their recent publication. In the digital age, what place do books now have? What exactly is it that constitutes a book? Where do ebooks and audiobooks fit into all this?

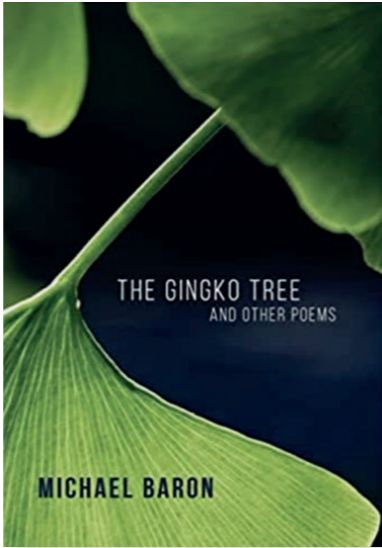
Is This a Book? explores the very position and definition of the book over the deep expanse of reading history and questions what place it has in modern society. Covering the history of books, the social and cultural status of the book, and how technology has changed the format, production and perception of the book, Phillips and Kovač investigate what has happened to it as a medium in our rapidly changing times.

“Is This a Book? is the best single volume on the book there is.”
Michael Bhaskar, Co-Founder of the publisher Canelo and author of *The Content Machine*

The Gingko Tree and Other Poems
Michael Baron, (GG, 1942-46)

I have just published this collection. The publisher is Palewell Press of East Sheen. It may be memorable; it may be not.

I was at Westminster from 1942 to 1946. At 94, I may be the oldest author to have a début at that age. You can be the judge of that. There is a poem about St Paul’s School on pages 28 and 29 and which was once in *Camden* the magazine.



Memories of Westminster School
1961-65

My brother and I both went to Westminster, at the wish our father, Joe Sprigge (KS 1925-31). We were Rigaudites. I enjoyed the science subjects but found languages very difficult.

Many of the masters were memorable. Denny Brock was a charismatic teacher of maths, who made calculus interesting and understandable. Messrs Stebbens and Moffat taught chemistry. They would have scoffed at the concepts of “health and safety”. Instead, common sense prevailed, although it was rumoured that an explosion during one chemistry demonstration had blown a clock off the wall! We learned to make oxygen from heating mercuric oxide, an experiment which had been seminal in Lavoisier’s “Traite du Chimie” in 1789. The meticulously dressed Mr Hepburne-Scott drilled Ohm’s law and other aspects of heat, light, sound and electricity into us. Beneath his reserve, he was a kind man, an unashamed Anglophile with an enthusiastic and infectious interest in British steam engines. Mr Spaul, the art master, gave an inspirational illustrated talk about Giotto’s murals in the Chapel of the Scrovegni.

Three afternoons a week were given to sport, and I learned about the eccentricities of the Tideway between Putney and Hammersmith. There must have been some risk in allowing adolescents to row solo on the Thames. It is cold at all times of the year except in mid-summer, and has a strong current. If you fell in, the rowing master instructed that you were to hold on to your boat – it was more valuable than you were, it would keep you afloat, and if you let go, you might well drown, which was a possibility.

Boarding Schools versus going to school locally. At that time, there were no girls at Westminster. I had no sisters to observe what makes a girl tick. My wife and two daughters have since educated me.

A boarding school separates you from any friends at home, and your classmates are more often competitors than friends. The school at the time bred reserve and competitiveness. We were good at passing exams, although it did not work for all of us. We might have appeared confident, even arrogant, but beneath the veneer, there could be a soft, inexperienced and very ill-informed centre. I had had the privilege of a happy childhood but I had little experience of life outside London and was ignorant of the “edgerows of experience” that Ernest Bevin said had educated him.

Could any curricula have been expanded? Could Divinity have included a comparison of the great religions and

philosophies that have influenced and continue to influence human behaviour?

Could the history curriculum have included a discussion of the causes of World War 1, the treaty of Versailles, the causes of World War 2, and Auschwitz, and other indelible stains of human activity, of which I was ignorant.

In his book about the school, “The Kings Nurseries”, John Field quotes the founding charter of Westminster School of 1560, which states the rationale of the school clearly, “the youth which is growing into manhood – shall be liberally instructed in good books to the greater honour of the state”. We were to be educated for the benefit of the state! In my time, it was a great privilege to go there.

Education – Is it filling the pot or lighting the fire? Those memorable and inspirational masters at Westminster lit the fire for me. Thank you to them. Westminster Abbey, (our school chapel!), fills me with awe. ■

John Sprigge (RR, 1961-65)



From the Archives: Coronations

Elizabeth Wells Archivist and Records Manage

King’s Scholars

On 8th September 2022 our Queen’s Scholars became King’s Scholars once again. They have played a unique part in coronation ceremonies since at least 1685, where their attendance and cries of ‘Vivat Rex’ were recorded in Francis Sandford’s *The History of the Coronation of James II...*

“A nd it is to be Noted that when the QUEEN entered the Choir, the King’s Scholars of Westminster-School, in Number Forty, all in Surplices, being placed in a Gallery adjoining to the Great Organ-Loft, Entertained Her MAJESTY with this short Prayer or Salutation, VIVAT REGINA MARIA; which they continued to Sing until His MAJESTY entered the Choir, whom they entertained in like manner with this Prayer or Salutation, VIVAT JACOBUS REX, which they continued to sing until His MAJESTY ascended the Theatre.”

In 1902, at the coronation of Edward VII, the scholars’ role as the first to acclaim the new monarch was formalised by the incorporation of the shouts of ‘Vivat’ into Parry’s coronation anthem, *I was glad*. At this year’s coronation, our female scholars who have been part of College since 2017, will get to join their male peers in the Abbey’s triforium.



Westminster Abbey depicted during James II’s coronation

Queen’s Scholars photographed just before Elizabeth II’s Coronation

The Coronation Chair

This May the spotlight will once again shine on the Coronation Chair. It is a remarkable object which has formed the centre piece of coronation services since 1308. However, it has had a chequered history, with brief periods of attention punctuating years when the chair becomes quite literally ‘part of the furniture’.

Originally known as ‘St Edward’s Chair’ the piece was commissioned by Edward I and constructed from oak in 1300-1301 before being decorated by ‘Master Walter’ with a gilt foliate pattern including birds, animals and even a green man. It was originally ornamented with coloured glass stones, but none of these now survive, having been pried away by generations of pilgrims and tourists to the Abbey looking for souvenirs of their visit.

Edward I had a specific role in mind for the chair – he wanted it to house the Stone of Scone which he had captured from the Abbey of the same name during his invasion of Scotland in 1296. He had brought the 152kg stone back to Westminster Abbey and the chair was constructed with a special enclosure underneath the seat to both display and secure the stone. Also known as the ‘Stone of Destiny’, the Stone of Scone had been used for centuries in the inauguration of Scotland’s kings. It has mythical connections with the 5th century figure of Fergus, the first King of the Scots, who purportedly transported the stone from Ireland, and yet earlier religious associations with



The Coronation Chair

the biblical figures of Jacob and Jeremiah. Geologists have convincingly shown that the stone, which is ‘lower Old Red Sandstone’ was quarried near to Scone. Nevertheless, its sacred importance as a symbol of Scotland remains undiminished.

The chair has been employed in 38 coronation ceremonies for reigning Kings and Queens in Westminster Abbey. In fact, the only monarchs not to have used the chair were Edward V and Edward VIII, neither of whom were crowned. Oliver Cromwell borrowed the chair, moving it to Westminster Hall, to use for his own installation as



The Stone of Scone

Lord Protector in 1657. For the joint coronation of William and Mary in 1689 a replica was constructed for Mary so that husband and wife could be crowned side by side.

The chair's life has been characterised by periods of neglect, followed by sudden flurries of activity during preparations for an imminent coronation. From the later Middle Ages, the chair was beginning to show signs wear and tear, and there was an unfortunate tendency to look for quick solutions to the problem. The chair is now littered with marks where covers of velvet or cloth of gold was nailed and tacked into place. This unintentional vandalism reached its peak in 1887, when the chair was overpainted in preparation for a thanksgiving service to mark Queen Victoria's Gold Jubilee. A thick brown varnish was applied to the chair to give its surface an even appearance, masking the remaining original gold decoration and damaging it further. This clumsy intervention did not go unnoticed, and questions were asked in the House of Commons.

Misguided though these attempts at beautifying the chair were, greater damage was performed, with intent, during the 20th century. In 1914 an anonymous suffragette hooked a home-made bomb on the left pinnacle of the chair's back and in the subsequent explosion it was entirely blown off. Further destruction took place in 1950, when a group of Scottish Nationalists, largely consisting of students, successfully managed to steal the Stone of Scone in the early hours of Christmas morning. In order to extract it they broke the seat of the chair and prised away the front rail. They were unprepared for the weight of the stone and managed to drop it out of its enclosure, breaking a corner off in the process. In 1996 it was decided that the stone should be returned to Scotland where it is on display at Edinburgh Castle. It did however, make the return trip for Charles III's coronation in May.



Thomas Pelham, an unlikely miscreant!

Whilst the history of such an ancient artefact is undoubtedly fascinating, you may wonder what connection the chair has with Westminster School? Those who examine the chair closely will observe that its surface is littered with graffiti in the form of carved initials, names and dates. Dean Edward Carpenter's history of the *Abbey House of Kings* recorded that 'in the eighteenth century and later [the chair] stood unguarded in the Confessor's Chapel and anyone who would, could sit in it on payment of a small fee to the vergers.' Others have aimed the blame

“As (un)fortunately the majority of inscriptions consist merely of initials, in many cases we will never be able to confirm the true number of pupils involved in defacing this ancient artefact.



Left: A close up reveals some of the many names inscribed
Above: The seat of the chair was photographed during conservation work from 2010-2012

more squarely at Westminster pupils, who it is said would often dare themselves or their peers to spend the night in the chair, carving their names in the early hours of the morning to record their achievement. A terminus post quem for the graffiti is impossible to calculate, but in common with other parts of the school and the Abbey, most seems to date from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. However, there are at least two inscriptions from the twentieth century: SUSAN 12-12-64 and S MAY 1959 – thankfully neither attributable to Westminster pupils.

My predecessor as Archivist, Eddie Smith, completed the impressive feat of recording the identifiable names and initials on both the Coronation Chair and its replica and researching which could be positively identified as Westminster pupils. His full research can be found in *The Coronation Chair and Stone of Scone: History, Archaeology and Conservation* edited by Warwick Rodwell, which has been of invaluable assistance in preparing this article. His investigation revealed that Westminster pupils did not deserve all of the blame for the chair's graffiti, but they were behind a significant

proportion. Of 130 initials or names gathered from the Coronation Chair, only 30 provide enough information to enable a confident identification. Of these 21 were Old Westminsters but the remaining 9 were not.

One Old Westminster, James Hook, managed to carve his name on both chairs and also the shield of Edward III which was stored nearby in Westminster Abbey's shrine. A year added to the shield '1788' enables us to match the name with a pupil at the school in the late eighteenth century who was a notorious caricaturist and mischief maker. He once dressed as an old woman and begged the Head Master, Dr William Vincent, for charity in Dean's Yard. A 'W VINCENT' also features, carved into Mary II's chair and Eddie Smith speculates that this might have been a further prank by Hook. However, plenty of Old Westminsters who were later pillars of the establishment appear to have indulged in school boy vandalism, including the future Prime Minister and Duke of Newcastle, Thomas Pelham.

As (un)fortunately the majority of inscriptions consist merely of initials, in many cases we will never be able to confirm the true number of pupils

involved in defacing this ancient artefact. As another historian of Westminster Abbey has noted, amongst Westminster pupils 'enthusiasm for the Abbey is traditional, though it has sometimes manifested itself in unorthodox ways and at inappropriate times.' Now, when not in use for coronation ceremonies, the chair is safely enclosed in St. George's Chapel, where visitors to the Abbey can admire it at a safe distance. ■



Thanks

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all OWW who have donated time, money towards conservation, reminiscences and archival material to the school over the past year. We love adding new things to our collections, which are widely used both within and outside of the school. Please keep the donations coming!

In Memoriam

The Development Office have been made aware of the deaths of the following members of the Elizabethan Club and greater Westminster School community, since the publication of the last Elizabethan Newsletter.

Professor Gabriel Barton (RR, 1947-52)
Simon H. Baynes (BB, 1947-52)
Peter S. Brook (LL, 1937-1938)
Patrick Cashell (BB, 1949-54)
Karen S. Clarke (AHH, 1978-80)
Anthony Corcoran (GG, 1954-59)
The Reverend Canon Geoffrey L. Grant (BB, 1947-51)
Michael A. Hall (GG, 1956-61)
Richard W. Hawkins (GG, 1949-52)
Malcolm Kafetz (BB, 1950-53)
The Right Hon Lord Nigel Lawson (WW, 1945-50)
Andrew C. Orr (BB, 1957-61)
Charles Prince (GG, 1950-55)
Alex D. Saward (BB, 1949-53)
Tim M. Robinson (WW, 1947-52)
Gordon H. Turner (AHH, 1952-55)
André F. Villeneuve (BB, 1958-63)
The Reverend Kallistos Ware (CC, 1947-52)
Martin G. Williams (WW, 1961-65)
James S. Woodford (GG, 1949-54)
Tim B. Woods (GG, 1969-74)
Ian F. Young (BB, 1950-55)

Tributes

CHARLES PRINCE (GG, 1950-55)
d. 27th August 2022

Charles Harvey (Hamilton) Prince died on 27 August 2022 aged 84 years, on the channel island of Jersey. He was born in London in 1937 to an Austrian mother and English father.

In the autumn of 1940, he was evacuated to the United States along with around 13,000 other UK children. He spent the war years in Cleveland and then Washington with his American ‘parents’, a childless couple who took him into their home as not much more than a baby.

After returning at the age of 7 in 1945 to his parents, Harvey was educated at Westminster School, followed by a degree in economics at Caius College, Cambridge. He then served 2 years military service in Germany as an officer with the Royal Signals attached to a Guards Brigade just outside Dusseldorf. It was here he met his wife Brigitte, who accepted his hand in marriage the year after he returned to England to join his father’s wine importing business, JLP Lebegue.

Lebegue was sold in 1964 with Harvey remaining as MD until 1973, after which formed his own business Harvey Prince & Co. This was later acquired by Greenall Whitely, the Warrington brewers. Over this period the wine trade was going through massive change, from a relatively small number of importing family businesses, through a period dominated by some rapidly consolidating breweries to what we largely see today with a few powerful supermarkets dominating.

Harvey spent nearly 20 years during these changes as the wine consultant for Marks and Spencer where he championed the back label on wine bottles, providing a description to assist the new wine customers M&S were trying to attract. Harvey also chaired the key committee overseeing French wine imports, for which in 1986 the French Government decorated him with the Chevalier de la Merite Agricole.

Harvey moved with Brigitte to the island of Jersey in 1987 and continuing his association with the Greenall family, become commercial director of Randalls Vautier with responsibility for their newly acquired wine department. At the same time, he and Brigitte, using an old secret family recipe passed down from Harvey’s great aunt in India, produced Jersey Amber, an orange liqueur that also sold separately sold in Guernsey as Guernsey Amber. He retired in 2007.

He was a lifelong keen golfer and enjoyed walking, travel and time with a wide circle of long-time friends along with actively participating in Probus and La Moye Senior golfers.

Brigitte died in June 2020 and Harvey will be sadly missed by his children Guy and Nicky and his four grandchildren.

CANON GEOFFREY GRANT (BB, 1947-51)
d. 23rd April 2022

It Geoffrey loved his time at Westminster and would often share memories of his years there – whether watching the rehearsals for Queen Elizabeth II’s Coronation, rowing on the Thames or his passion for the printing society, the school meant so much to him. A humble, delightful man, he often joked that the only reason Westminster accepted him was that they were so short of pupils at the time...

From Westminster, Geoffrey read History at Trinity Cambridge before hearing God’s call upon his life and studying for ministry at Ridley theological college. A curacy at St Luke’s Chelsea followed – and it was here where he met the love of his life, Wendy. In 1964, Geoffrey and Wendy arrived in Nacton, a small parish in Suffolk. They intended to stay for four years... But 50 years on, could still be found there, quietly and generously serving the community around them.

Over the years, Geoffrey conducted more than 600 weddings, marrying the children – and baptising the grandchildren – of those he married in the 1960s. His life was one of service, gentleness towards all he met and always characterised by a twinkling smile behind his glasses – the schoolboy in him never really left. A canon for over two decades, Geoffrey finally retired, aged 81. His friend, Archdeacon, Ian Morgan wrote of him, “He is amongst the very last of a breed of priest who have given almost their entire ministry in one living. His old fashioned values of dedication, pastoral care and commitment to God, mark him out as one of the exceptional priests to have served in this diocese.”

The Elizabethan – which Geoffrey always adored reading – marks so many exceptional lives – people who have literally changed the world. And in his own, quiet, uncelebrated way – Geoffrey did the same, helping, comforting, encouraging and witnessing to all of us about the grace and mercy of God. Westminster school imprinted so many of its values and beliefs on the then young boy of fourteen, and his life was all the richer for those influences.

Geoffrey would often remark that he “simply loved other people” and for those who had the privilege to know him, this is simply how he will be remembered.

He is survived by Wendy and his two children.



IAN YOUNG
(BB, 1950-55)

Ian Young was born in Putney, London on April 7th 1937. A younger brother to Jennie. The family lived in a block of flats opposite the start point of the Oxford and Cambridge Boat Race. At the time Ian was a master at Westminster School.

When the war started in 1939 the school was evacuated to several large houses scattered around Herefordshire. With no mains water Rendall (Ian’s mother) was required to recruit and manage staff for cooking for some 80 boys.

Ian remembered that he and Jennie would make themselves unpopular by looking through the bannisters at the top of a large staircase and shout at the boys that would be late for breakfast. On one occasion one of the boys put Ian across his knee and gave him a sharp smack on his bottom for being cheeky. That boy was Tony Wedgewood Benn. Rendall never forgave him!

In 1943 the family returned to London as Murray (Ian’s father) had been asked to start a new preparatory department for Westminster School. One of Ian’s recollections of the war was hearing the V1 rockets flying overhead.

In May 1946 Ian started school at a preparatory boarding school, Tormore, near Deal in Kent and spent the next four and a half years there before moving to Westminster School as a day boy. By now Murray was Headmaster of the Under School, although Ian was not taught by him and rarely saw him.

Ian was called up to do his National Service when he finished school. By this time he had decided that he wanted to read Engineering at Cambridge so he chose the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers for his army career. He was fortunate to be selected for Officer Training and obtained his commission in the summer of 1956. This coincided with the Suez Crisis and his first job as an officer was to help equip and train reservists who had been called up for the operation. As all these recruits were much older than him, having finished National

Service several years previously, and not being too pleased at having been called up, it was a baptism of fire and very good experience.

Having finished his National Service Ian managed to get placed on to an apprenticeship Scheme in the steel industry on the condition that he could pass the qualifying exam to read Mechanical Sciences at Cambridge. He duly passed and started at Cambridge in 1958.

Having worked so hard to get to Cambridge, Ian was determined to concentrate on his studies and to avoid the hectic social life that was available. However, at a coming up dance three weeks later he met Jane, who had recently started work as a secretary. They became engaged in February 1960 and were married the week after Ian took his final degree in June 1961.

As part of the student apprenticeship Ian was required to work at three different steelworks during the final year. Ian and Jane’s first home was in Abergavenny whilst Ian worked in Pontypool. They then moved to the Midlands and finally ended up in Scunthorpe. They bought their first house there in April 1962.

Chris was born in January 1963 but by that summer Ian had decided that the steel industry was not very satisfying, so he managed to get a job with PA Management Consultants.

Ian’s second assignment was in High Wycombe. Ian and Jane had recently made contact with an old school friend Keith Sandford and Margaret who were living in Chalfont St Peter and whilst Jane was staying them, they found a house in Gerrards Cross. They moved in April and Michael was born in July.

Ian had several assignments including the Observer Newspaper, the Port of London Authority and a printing works in Norwich for a year whilst they stayed in a bungalow in the garden of Jane’s parents in Thetford. After a long assignment at the Prudential Insurance Company in Chancery Lane Ian

became disillusioned with management consultancy and he was offered a job at Danepak in Thetford.

Peter arrived in May 1968 and the family all moved to Roydon Cottage in August that year.

Ian was responsible for a variety of jobs at Danepak including improving productivity and he eventually retired as Technical Director in 1998.

Ian and Jane moved to Bedales in 1991.

ALEX SAWARD
(BB, 1949-53)

Alex Saward was born at Mancott Royal in Flint, Flintshire in Wales on the 7th March 1935. He was the only child of Group Captain Norman Cuthbert Saward and his Russian born wife Valeria who married in Estonia in 1930.

His father was Station Commander at Old Sarum Airfield near Salisbury during the Second World War, from January 1941 to October 1943. Alex attended Chafyn Grove Preparatory School on the edge of Salisbury. While there he began to develop an interest in drama and also thoroughly enjoyed playing rugby.

On passing Common Entrance he went on to Westminster School and enjoyed his time there enormously. His academic talents leaned towards the arts and he enjoyed studying English literature and history, especially political history. He also excelled at rowing and eventually became a member of the First Eight competing against other schools on a number of occasions at Henley Regatta.

He was hugely proud to have been one of the senior boys at Westminster School who attended Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth’s coronation in Westminster Abbey on 2nd June 1953. He treasured his copies of The Ceremonial and the Approved Souvenir Programme all his life.

At Westminster he developed a great love of theatre and the ballet. On leaving school his first job was working as general assistant to his godfather, Peter Ustinov. He then went on to work in the theatre as an assistant stage manager/ understudy in repertory which included a spell at “Q Theatre” in Chiswick.

When out of work he usually managed to get work washing up in a restaurant to keep going.

Settling in London, he lodged initially at my aunt’s home in Chelsea and it was there, in the summer of 1955, that we first met. I was fifteen and Alex was twenty. When I was sixteen he invited

me out and after a two year courtship we became engaged on my eighteenth birthday. We married on the 21st February 1959 at Chelsea Old Church, when I was just nineteen and Alex not quite twenty-four.

In the months shortly before our marriage, Commercial Television was starting up. A number of companies came into being and Alex secured a job as a Floor Manager with Granada Television up in Manchester. It came with a salary that enabled us to get married. He enjoyed working for Granada as he was able to work on a number of serious drama productions. He also worked on some of the very first *Coronation Street* programmes.

Later he left Granada to work for Southern Television in Southampton, eventually returning to London to work in the theatre, his first love, as a Company and Stage Manager. Things didn’t work out and with a young family to support he managed to obtain a temporary contract as a Floor Manager with the BBC. This was soon converted to permanent employment. He worked on a variety of programmes at the BBC and progressed to become Studio Director and later Producer in News and Current Affairs. Some of the many programmes he was involved with were the long-running and highly successful early evening programme *Nationwide*; *Panorama*; *Tonight*; *Newsnight*; *24 Hours* and *General Election* programmes.

During the 1980s he re-discovered his love of sailing. He and a friend bought “Spirit”, a rather beautiful boat, and they competed in ocean racing events at Cowes and La Rochelle. Later he joined the crew of another friend’s boat as navigator. This included sailing in two notorious Fastnet races which took place in truly dramatic stormy weather. He survived!

Much later, in 2011, when we had our flat in Greece, we bought a small power boat (“Bav£C£<Ja”). He thoroughly enjoyed being the captain! Our two younger grandchildren, Esker and Alexis,

took a Royal Yachting Association course for beginners and became highly competent crew members, well able to pilot the boat at speed across the bay to the beautiful island of Elafonissos opposite.

In 1989 he took early retirement from the BBC and after a short spell working for Sky News, he took on the job of Press Officer for Harlequin Football Club, reigniting his love of rugby. He held this role for nearly nine years till the world of rugby changed and clubs became fully professional commercial enterprises. During this time, five years in all, he also prepared all the weekday lunches for the customers at ‘The Alexandra’, a pub in East Finchley, run then by our son, Miles and his wife Jacqui. During this period, he also had the joy of spending many happy times with their children, our eldest grandchildren, Samantha and Mark.

In 1999 when our younger grandson Esker was born to our son Christopher and his wife Anastasia, Alex’s talents diversified even more! He took on the part-time care of Esker, and later his sister Alexis, from the time each was six months old, to enable Anastasia to return to her work as an architect.

Alex and I were married for sixty-three years. He was the one and only love of my life and will remain so for ever.

Vanessa, April 2022



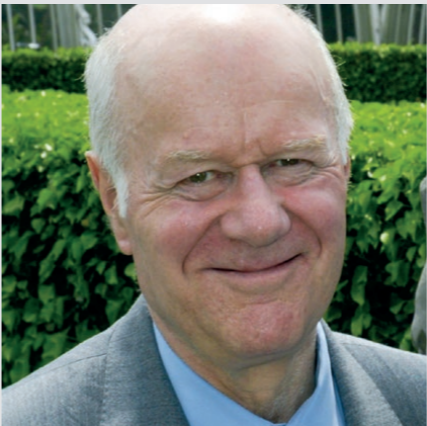
KAREN S CLARKE
(AHH, 1978-80)

d. 16th December 2022
Karen Clarke died of a rare and aggressive bile duct cancer aged 60 on 16th December 2022 after a short illness. Karen was a special needs educator and writer with a difference and improved the lives of scores of young people in south London marginalised by an outdated and obdurate educational system. Her lessons, influenced by her early life as archaeologist, translator, arms dealer, spy, marketing consultant, cookery book author and writer were inspirational, and it was her time as special needs teacher and writer that gave her the feeling that she had made a positive and lasting contribution to the world in which she lived.
Karen was born in Fareham, Hampshire on 24th May 1962 into an early mixed-race marriage between Lieutenant Commander Basil Clarke and Yu Ye, or Sandra Clarke as she was to become.
Karen parents had met in Hong Kong; her father on secondment from the Royal Navy to learn Mandarin, her mother a refugee from Shanghai working and learning English.
As Karen’s’ mother had been educated by the Jesuits in Shanghai, French was the only language her parents had in common at that time.
Karen was educated at Putney High School, then, as her father and uncle before her, at Westminster School. From Westminster she went on to the School of Oriental and Africa Studies to read Mandarin and Archaeology. This included a hard but rewarding year in China at the Beijing Language Institute in the early 1980s and exposed her to a China still recovering from the effects of the Cultural Revolution.
Following a varied career selling military electronics to the Chinese army and navy, a period working with the Special Intelligence Service and then in the 1990s as marketing director for Coopers and Lybrand in Hong Kong, she returned to the UK in the late

1990s. During her time in Hong Kong, Karen also wrote one of the first fusion cookery books for Chinese – English (Ching-lish) food titled *Shanghai MaMa – Oriental Cooking For the Knife and Fork* (1997).
Now with two young children, working full time back in the City was not for Karen and so she looked for another occupation. She saw the divisive nature of schooling in the UK and how children who did not fit into the often narrow teaching system could be marginalized and left to one side. As a tutor and teacher she specialised in re-building self-esteem, enthusiasm and self confidence in children in all subjects. To Karen exam grades were a necessary bi-product, but her main focus was getting her pupils to feel as though they were permanently back on the level playing field and equipped to deal with the challenges a difficult system put in front of them, bringing back their confidence and an excitement and enthusiasm to learn.
Karen was also a short story writer regularly publishing work in reviews and anthologies. Her last story *The Thieves* was published in the anthology *In the Kitchen* (2020) and was a parody of the Hansel and Gretel fairy-tale with a cannibalistic Oriental twist. However a masters degree at Birkbeck College helped her begin to plot out and write a much more ambitious historical novel centred in China, Hong Kong and the UK and, in a small way, is loosely based on her parents early lives. Being of mixed race, Karen wanted to write something different from what was already in the book store. The book, titled *The Handkerchief Tree* was a large, detailed work in progress at the time of her death. Getting it finished and published will be her family’s task over the coming years.
Karen is survived by her husband Andrew Harper and their children Toby and Mi.

MICHAEL A HALL
(GG, 1956-61)

Michael Hall played in the Westminster School Cricket 1st XI for four years in 1958-61 and was Captain for three years 1959-61, he is the only Westminster Schoolboy to achieve that honour. After leaving School he played for Westcliffe in the Essex League, the Old Westminsters, the Butterflies and South Weald Cricket Club from where he retired from cricket in 1975.



JAMES WOODFORD
(GG, 1949-54)

James Woodford (GG 1949-54) was born in London in the mid-1930s and lived in the capital throughout his life, apart from a short spell in Chinnor, Oxfordshire during the Second World War, when his family left for the relative safety of the countryside.
His father – also James – was a renowned sculptor and artist, best known for his statue of Robin Hood outside Nottingham Castle and the heraldic beasts guarding the entrance to Westminster Abbey on the occasion of Queen Elizabeth II’s coronation in 1953. The family were based in Chalk Farm initially, with James Jr attending The Hall School in Hampstead before being offered a place at Westminster.
He had fond memories of life as a Grantite in the early fifties, participating actively in sport and developing an interest in modern languages, which he would go on to study at Christ Church, Oxford. His family had moved to Chiswick in west London and James spent time between school and university working in Hammersmith Library, where he recalled once being admonished for spending too long escorting a glamorous female visitor around the shelves.
In the 1960s, James forged a career as an advertising copywriter, moving between various agencies and working on a range of accounts including Ovaltine. He and his wife Mary, a nurse, raised two children initially in Mortlake and then Twickenham, South West London. James spent the remainder of his working life in different roles at IPC Magazines, helping the giant publisher to promote popular titles such as Woman and Woman & Home.
Keeping a close connection with Westminster School, James was Secretary of the Old Grantite Club in the early 1980s, when John Baxter was Housemaster. Luminaries on the committee in the era included Judge Michael Argyle of the Central Criminal Court and future Attorney General Dominic Grieve.

With early retirement from work forced upon him by ill health in the early 1990s, James remained actively involved in his local area – supporting a community centre with its communications, becoming involved in the Roman Catholic Church (to which he was a convert) and loyally supporting Hampton & Richmond football club.
Football had, in fact, always been an important part of James’ life. He played at school and university and spent many years in a Sunday side run by OW Dr Hugh Symons and comprising a squad of hospital medics. The expectations were high. One doctor, who suspected he’d had a minor heart attack on the pitch, was told to splash cold water on his face and come back on for the second half.
When it came to the national game, James was a passionate fan of Nottingham Forest. His father hailed from the city and had been a County supporter. Even in his final days, as he struggled with the effects of advanced Parkinson’s Disease, James was delighted to follow the progress of the Tricky Trees as they re-entered the Premier League.
Another lifelong obsession was country music. A talented lyricist, James partnered with professional and semi-professional musicians to record demo tapes and derived great pleasure from listening to the work of Nashville stars.
In early 2023, James’ health went into further decline and he died suddenly at the end of a short hospital stay. He is survived and fondly remembered by his wife, Mary, his two children, Phil and Harriet, and his grandchildren Maria, Elizabeth, Marnie and Sonny.

GEOFFREY P CASHELL
(BB 1949-54)

d. 6th March 2023
Patrick would, I believe, enjoy considering his life and impact, as we do this afternoon, based on the seven courses of a French meal – after all, his profession was a French teacher and, even in retirement, his nom de plume with regards to his beloved letterboxing was ‘Patrick, Le Prof’.

Le hors-d’œuvre or entrée begins on 6 September 1935 when Geoffrey Patrick Willoughby Cashell was born in Reading, Berkshire to Geoffrey Thomas and Hilda Cashell. Two years later, a younger brother, Peter, arrived and there began a strong familial relationship that took the four of them into the Second World War and beyond.

Le Potage or Soup course, saw Patrick attend Lambrook Prep School in Berkshire before five years at Westminster School from 1949-1954. Patrick and Peter, in Peter’s wife Judy’s words, weren’t that close but when they did meet up, they had a good laugh.

Le Poisson or Fish course, sees Patrick embark on a teaching career, completing an IAPS Diploma of Education and spending time as an assistant at his old prep school, Lambrook. He clearly thrived in the all-consuming life of a boarding school as this became one of his great passions for over forty years.

In 1956 he was appointed Assistant Master and Housemaster at Cumnor House School, near Haywards Heath, in Sussex. Under the tutelage of Hal and Nan Milner Gulland, Patrick developed not only his teaching skills, both as a French teacher and more than enthusiastic Games teacher, but also his management skills as, along with Nick Milner Gulland, the Head’s son, they were groomed to take over the school.

Patrick met Dallas Lees, a nurse at St Thomas’s hospital and they married in 1962. The family moved to The Hill School, Westerham in Kent, where Patrick became Head of French and,

along with Dallas, they took responsibility for boarding.

All of you will reflect on how you came into contact with Patrick and the impression that you have of him. Most of you will recall the passion that he demonstrated in all that he involved himself with. This theme will be a recurring one – his passion as a schoolmaster was unquestionable.

Patrick became widely recognisable on the Independent Preparatory Schools’ circuit. Frank Fisher was a governor at Mount House School and when a French teacher vacancy materialised there, with Frank’s respect for Patrick, he introduced him to the headmaster, Tony Wortham and that lead, in 1973, to the Le Plat Principale or Main course.

1973 saw the addition of Chris, sorry Christopher, to the family and a year later, Patrick and Dallas took on Mera Ghar as Houseparents. Patrick was driven by the need to be the very best he could be in all facets of life; his classroom was painstakingly decorated over two or three days at the start of each academic year, the pitches was measured out (although Graham Bush will rightly take all the credit for the calculations as one of the few areas of strength Patrick did not have were in mathematical calculations).

His love of productions saw comedy shows and French Plays played out on the nets area and productions of HMS Pinafore and The Pirates of Penzance in the recently built Wortham Hall. Not only did he continue to assiduously record the statistics for colts rugby and football as well as 1st XI cricket, he found time to delve into the scorebooks and create a compendium of cricket statistics showing the records by appearance, runs scored, wickets taken and catches, stumpings and the like for all seasons of cricket at Mount House.

He also decided that not only should Mount House pupils benefit from the preparation he oversaw for Scholarship and Common Entrance candidates but

every prep school pupil in the country should have the opportunity to delve into his vocabulary revision book. A book, *RSVP*, was duly produced, published and distributed around the country.

Outside of an all-consuming life at Mount House, there were significant other ‘strings to his bow’ – all carried out with meticulous care and unstinting sacrifice. He rekindled his schoolboy love of Fives playing once again at Kelly College and occasionally managed a game of Real Tennis at Canford School. He played cricket for Tavistock and the Mount House Wanderers.

He served in a wonderful capacity as Secretary to Tavistock CC, he was a committed contributor to the West Devon Reading for the Blind team, he created a junior summer cricket team of its own for Tim to enjoy with his school friends, the Mount House Martins, and those wonderful scorebooks were lovingly cared for, recording, as they do, the several low scores of a certain, Simon Carter.

As the nineties grew to a close, Patrick moved away from Mount House, remarried, to Phillippa, and set up home in Lezant. His departure from Mount House, however, and arrival in Peter Tavy became, as part of our culinary quest, La Salade, the Salad course.

A small, close-knit community can be a challenge to an ‘outsider’. If it was, Patrick wasn’t perturbed. In customary style, he threw everything into becoming a cog in the life of the village. His friendship with Ange was central to this and his association with this Church for over twenty years saw roles in committee, reader, one man choir (occasionally memorably), churchwarden and so many other roles. After forty years of boarding commitment and Sunday services at school, for the first time, Patrick was able to immerse himself in his Christian faith here at St Peter’s. He established a strong Scottish Dancing network, often calling at events around the county. Daisy, his pride and

joy – a 1924 Bullnose Morris who he saved and renovated in the 1950s continued to be a major draw. He was asked regularly to chauffeur at weddings or other celebratory occasions.

Being in Peter Tavy gave him even more access to his beloved Dartmoor and, once again, he established a passion for letterboxing that took Ange and him up and down tor after tor to the tune of, I understand, forty two thousand recorded letterbox stamps. He served on the Parish Council and was often the calm, authoritative voice of reason. He was, as you can gather, someone who could be relied upon, someone who always had time and energy for others and someone who was always very humble. There were a few giggles, however, when Patrick did not remember to put his clock back one Autumn and was walking towards the church as the congregation was coming out.

Patrick retired to Peter Tavy in 1997, this was to be his home for over twenty-five years. He soon became very much involved in village life. Having a strong faith, he was a regular worshipper here at St. Peter’s. He was secretary to the Parochial Church Council for over twenty years and supported all aspects of fund raising for the Church.

It wasn’t long after his move to Peter Tavy that Patrick set up Scottish Country Dancing classes in the Village Hall, these were to be a regular weekly event for twenty-one years and gave him much pleasure and were very much enjoyed by all who attended.

He read for ‘The Talking Newspaper’ for the blind, since its inception in 1976 and did this until a few years ago. Being a fan of Gilbert and Sullivan, he often took the opportunity of seeing a production, even heading down to the Minack Theatre. He became a very active member of the Village Hall Committee, taking bookings and performing other duties. Selling ice creams at the annual village fair,

Tributes

wearing his straw boater! He organised the successful Dartmoor Evenings with invited guests who performed traditional songs and readings and he always joined in a comical sketch to end the evening, performed by the bell ringers and friends This was always popular and very well attended and great fun.

He was a Parish Councillor for some years and organised Peter Tavy Beating of the Bounds on a couple of occasions. He had a very great knowledge of Dartmoor and organised some lovely walks which many have enjoyed over the years with Patrick leading the way at a pace! It was because of his love for Dartmoor that he also took up Letterboxing, obtaining around 15 thousand stamps on his walks which he did, in the early years with his beloved dogs Poppy and Wotnot. He continued with this up until five years ago when mobility became a problem.

He wrote regular articles for the Peter Tavy Piper based on his many walks. ‘Patrick’s Perambulations’ became a regular feature in the Piper for twenty-four years as well as his competitions based on Dartmoor which gave pleasure to many.

He supported Peter Tavy Bell Ringers and joined in with their annual Fancy Dress Dinners held at the pub, there was always a theme at the dinners and his costumes often caused much amusement!

Le Fromage or Cheese course finds Patrick taking on a role in the newly created Mount House Old Boys Association. He had long been a stalwart of Ken Cload’s brainchild, the Wanderers, but now, Patrick was back at his schoolmasterly best, establishing records for generations of former pupils. Again, this was selfless work, borne out of creating something that others could enjoy and benefit from.

And so to Le Dessert – a painful hip replacement in 2019, COVID-19 lockdowns in 2020 and the subsequent loss of his capacity to drive saw, as many

others around the country found, Patrick becoming quite reclusive. His mobility started to suffer but, throughout this period, Ange’s love, his commitment to the church and so much Sky sports TV that poor old Ange needs a sainthood for putting up with, ensured that he was comfortable and enjoyed his final years. He was always a sunworshipper and, ironically, burning his legs when he fell asleep outside last May, saw some irksome sores develop and, with it, an infection that became troublesome to manage. A spell in hospital was followed by a lovely stay at Spring House where he was, once again, often the centre of attention. Four days before he was due to return to the Cottage, he fell ill once more. Once again in Derriford Hospital, he showed his resilience and comedic value, pulling faces and keeping Ange on her toes.

Le Dessert may be the final course in Patrick’s seven course life but there remains the need for a drink to accompany each course. Many of you will think of Patrick for his fondness of Jail Ale (in a handled mug of course), a coffee in the morning or a tea in the afternoon, his preference for a small whiskey at 6pm and his admiration for a Cabalie or Black Stump glass of red wine. Whether that is your drink of choice to toast him, whether you remember his two egg mantra, his infectious humour or his simple humanity, I know you will find a moment to raise a glass to this hale and hearty, gallant and joyous companion, father, grandfather, friend, schoolmaster or acquaintance. Amen



