

# THE OLD HENDONIAN ◆ 2019 ◆



## ISSUE NUMBER TWENTY-EIGHT

*Dear Old Hendonians and Friends,*

My relatively easy task last year was to finish putting together a magazine most of which Trevor Easterfield, your previous editor, had done so very well to compile as far as he could. I always knew that the current edition would be the first I could really call my own. So here it is ...

My first thought was whether I should be making any changes. But, judging from the kind comments and encouraging words I've received from so many of you – for which I am very grateful – you seem quite happy with the content and layout of the magazine as it is. And by nature, I favour quiet evolution rather than revolution.

So as you read on, things should look reassuringly familiar. But you will notice some changes, like a new “From The Archives” feature. Also, Hendon in the News now focuses exclusively on matters of interest in the locality, while News from Old Hendonians deals with what our former students and staff have been up to.

My grateful thanks, as ever, go to Annette Bruce and David Eadon for their regular contributions, to David as well as Kemuel Solomon for acting as proof-readers – and of course, to the Headteacher, Rhona Povey, for her usual letter, and all her continued support and encouragement, which I greatly value.

Last but not least, a special thank you to everyone who has made a donation to Friends of Hendon School, for which we are always very grateful.

With sincere best wishes to you all,

**Alan Freedman – Editor**

# FROM MIRIAM WEBBER ...

## TO TREVOR



For years I've sent  
my mails to Trevor,  
Thinking he'd go on  
forever.

Ill health has forced him from his post,  
I raise my glass in grateful toast

to all he's given, through the years  
as editor and archivist – three cheers!  
I'll miss his friendly answering mails  
acknowledging my ancient tales.

As archivists with common ground  
I also value old things found,  
forgotten - just undo the lock,  
find treasures and turn back the  
clock...

School memories left far behind,  
so dusty now they're hard to find,  
he printed mine ten years ago:  
the nineteen forties in tableau.

I'll do my best to look for more,  
although I searched quite well before,  
perhaps I'll find a few I missed,  
"Hendonian archaeologist."

Now Alan Freedman takes his place  
inheriting with matchless grace  
as editor; with Trevor's aid  
I'm sure that he will make the grade.

Good health, good luck, good fortune  
too,  
and heartfelt thanks to both of you,  
for all the work that Trevor's done,  
and work that Alan's just begun.

## TO ALAN



This Old Hendonian's  
come so fast,  
Good Heavens – has a  
year gone past?  
I see the little note from  
you -  
I'll ask the muse what she can do.

\*\*\*

I've asked her, she has no ideas,  
I've looked for memories from those  
years,  
but sadly, I can find no more  
I've searched in every single drawer.

The days flash by in tempus fugit,  
a pile of memories so huge it  
spills out everywhere I go,  
my brain's too full of what I know.

They're memories of other places,  
other times and other faces  
memories from before and after,  
Times of sadness, joy and laughter.

But nothing more from Hendon's days  
that formed me in so many ways,  
prepared me for the road ahead;  
I'm satisfied in where it's led.

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Considering the booklet's size  
it really should be no surprise  
that all you have cannot be printed,  
some's full length, some merely  
hinted.

But overall a picture's seen  
of what's on now and what has been,  
and what the school's achieved to date:  
an exemplar to emulate!!

## NEWS FROM OLD HENDONIANS

**Marion Godfrey, née Wiener** (1957 – 1964) writes:

I really enjoyed my school days, although of course now they are around 60 years ago ... I had a wonderful springboard to my career as an international interpreter at Hendon under the patient tutelage of the wonderful Jack Driver, going on after that to the Sorbonne. I did indeed confound Mr Potts' fears that I might not be able to rise to the social level at which international meetings take place - which is what he wrote in my testimonial - and have enjoyed a long and happy career as an international interpreter. I am sure Mr Potts would have been very surprised at some of the goings-on at these international meetings, over which I shall draw a veil!

**David Lacey** (1969 – 1976) writes:

I was particularly saddened to read, in the last edition, of the death of Doris Kay who taught me French up to O-level. I regularly quote her. Living in the West of Scotland, I have learned that the Scots have subtleties of pronunciation that often leave me baffled – is there really any difference between birth and berth or between paw, pour, pore and poor? There is if you are a Scot! Anyway, my defence when I'm challenged on these failings is to quote Miss Kay. She used to say "Londoners are the worst language students because they speak English so badly." Who am I to argue with that?

**Brian Goodall** (1943 – 1950) writes:

Thank you so much for the latest Old Hendonian. It is so nice to be reminded of those happy days and wonderful friends at Hendon Grammar during the 1940s. I believe that I was the only boy during the war that had to be evacuated because of bomb damage to our house. My brother Roy was head boy from 1950 to 1951, but unfortunately died in Southern Rhodesia shortly after leaving school.

**Judy Karbritz, née Sampson** (1961 – 1966) writes:

My abiding memory of the school was Mrs Doran (my English teacher) telling me to stop my witticisms in class. She would be more than a little surprised to know I am now Harrow's Community Poet and have a regular monthly column, Poetry Corner, in the Barnet Borough Times and Harrow Times.

I was in the same year as Gerald Ratner (he left at the end of the first year and I have our class photo). My maiden name was Sampson, and I am also co-founder of The Jewish Poetry Society.

**Sally-Ann Feldman, née Lewis** (1961 – 1967) writes:

I did a lot of music at the school, so I knew Miss Stranz and Mr Western very well at the time. I was the only person in my year taking A-level music.

I was really interested to hear from Trevor Easterfield's letter in the magazine just how much the musical life of the school flourished under his guidance. I would have loved to have been a part of the great things that the pupils had the opportunity to take up. I went to Berlin twice on a twinning visit with the choir from a school over there. We made an LP, sang on Radio 3 and I think we did a children's Christmas show on television (though that may have been with my Junior School, Wessex Gardens) but what came later was far more exciting!

**Ian Berry** (1957 – 1962) writes:

My wife Elaine and I were at Hendon County Grammar School from September 1957 aged 11. We sat next to each other in class! I left at the end of summer term in 1962. Elaine (née Chilcot) stayed on in the sixth form for one term only and left in December of that year. After the first form, 1B, when Mr Nicholson was our form teacher, Mr Murphy, Paddy, took over from the second form to the fifth form and we are still in touch with him, exchanging Christmas cards each year. Elaine and I married in September 1966 and celebrated our golden wedding anniversary 2 years ago.

**Christopher Gunning** (1955 – 1962), award-winning composer of concert works and music for films and television, had his Symphonies 2, 10, and 12 recorded by the BBC National Orchestra of Wales in April 2019. These are to be released on CD and broadcast on Radio 3 hopefully in the not too distant future.

"Spot the relics!" – so says **Ken Sheringham** pictured here, left to right, reunited once more with his old classmates from 1958 – 1965 **Chris Kaufman**, **Dick Coldwell** and **Grant Kriteman** enjoying a day out in April 2019, with a rather brief visit to the British Museum followed by a more protracted lunch at a favourite restaurant nearby.



**Maureen Trowbridge, née Woolley** (1956 – 1963) writes:

Personal news is not headline stuff – but almost 5 years ago I married David Trowbridge, having been partners for nearly 20 years. My children from my marriage to past Hendonian, David Harrison, Gemma and Ben, have given me a beautiful grandson, Thomas who is 7½ years old – and Ben's imminent marriage in September to lovely Chloe will mean I will inherit 2 more 'adopted' grandchildren, who are Chloe's offspring.



My love of music and singing in choirs, nurtured during my time at Hendon with the encouragement of the wonderful music teacher at the time, Mr. Charles (aka Charlie) Western, developed through my life, and I have joined many prestigious choirs in Kent. I retired at Christmas from the Kent Chamber Choir, but still belong to a very special group (called The Maidstone Singers) which has a fine reputation. We are taking part in a weekend in Norwich, and the choir has just returned from its annual tour in Europe.

I hope this information may interest anybody who remembers me from my former life as Maureen Woolley, (at HCGS until 1963) then Maureen Harrison and now Maureen Trowbridge, living in Maidstone, Kent since 1977.

Following his recent Senior Investigator Award of £2.3 million from the Wellcome Trust, one of the UK's leading scientists **Professor Sir Philip Cohen FRSE FMedSci** (1956 – 1963) has now been awarded a new Programme Grant of £1.6 million from the Medical Research Council.

Both research awards are aimed at understanding how to control the power of the body's immune system to prevent autoimmune diseases such as arthritis, asthma, fibrosis and lupus as well as to enhance the power of the immune system to destroy cancers.

Philip said, "Just over ten years ago I realised that the same technology and know-how that I had developed to work out how insulin controls the body's metabolism would also enable me to understand how the immune system works at the molecular level. I therefore took the somewhat risky decision to abandon all my other research projects to focus on this new, but exciting, project. It has been a huge learning experience for me, and indeed I continue to learn something new about immunity every day, but the effort has paid off with a number of novel and exciting findings that we will be building on with these new awards.

"I believe that there is a good chance that our research will eventually lead to the development of improved drugs to treat diseases, immune diseases, and cancers."



Philip joined the University of Dundee in late 1971. He said, "My first successful grant application was funded in 1973 by the British Diabetic Association, which is now called Diabetes UK. This means that in 2023, when these new grants enter their final year, I will have received continuous funding for my research for 50 years. I am therefore most grateful to the funding agencies that have provided these grants over the years. My lab continues to be very active and, with these new awards, the University of Dundee will have to put up with me until I am nearly 78!"

*[Reproduced from the University of Dundee website]*

A resident of the West Hendon Estate for many years, **Jasmin Parsons** (1972 – 1974) is well known and well regarded in the community. For several years, she has organised an annual Service of Remembrance for the 76 known residents who died there in one evening, due to the dropping of a single enemy bomb on 13 February 1941.

In recent years, she has also been at the forefront of highlighting the selling-off of council housing in the West Hendon Estate. Only a handful of tenants are able to afford the very high price of the new apartments, with over 200 facing the prospect of being moved into homes run by housing associations. Jasmin is at present fighting a Compulsory Purchase Order on her own home. She has also been tireless in her efforts to support other residents. A public inquiry into the regeneration of the West Hendon Estate will be held at the RAF Museum in Colindale, starting on 31 July 2019.

A far cry from the happy school life of Hendon in the 1970s!

A correspondent, who has asked not to be named, writes:



I don't know if you are interested to print in your next issue a happy story in this troubled world. I am now 82 and was at Hendon County in 1952 until I had to leave at 16. It was the best school in Hendon, disciplined and we respected our teachers. I was not a perfect child but loved the school, captaining the hockey team.

Anyway, a friend, Beryl Rosenthal, went into the sixth form and met Ron Hooker, who was a great sportsman who played cricket for Middlesex. They went their separate ways, each got married and had a family. After losing their spouses in their late 70s, they met again at a school reunion. They went out together and are now a couple in their 80s. What a lovely romance - should be a film of it. I wish to remain anonymous, though they will guess who told this story.

**Reg Beckley** (1942–1948) has again excelled himself - this time in his portrayal of Polonius and "Old Actor" in "Rosenkrantz and Guildenstern are Dead" for the Arena Theatre, which stages productions in and around the Bournemouth area. One of the venues was the Marine Theatre, Lyme Regis, where on D-Day-1 James Cagney is reported to have trodden the same boards. Here is Reg in action – in the middle of the back row.



**Dr Philip Corbin** (1968 – 1975), **Clive Winton** (1966 – 1973) and their respective spouses, Rosaline and Diana, spent a wonderful day together in the first week of December.

Philip – a cherished friend and old classmate of your editor – grew up in Barbados, and returned to live there after leaving Hendon School and graduating from Southampton University.

Clive and Diana are regular visitors to Barbados, which is a favourite holiday venue of theirs.

Pictured here – left to right – are Rosaline, Clive and Diana, on the balcony of the Rostrevor Hotel, where Clive proposed to Diana several years ago.



And here's a picture (left to right) of Rosaline, Philip and Clive, taken on the same balcony.



It was the first time Clive and Philip had seen each other since their schooldays, so they had a great deal of news to catch up on, as well as sharing memories of their time at school.

Here's a picture of Ben Tavern Restaurant at St Martin Bay – where they went for a “fabulous” fish lunch, replete with various local fruit juices.



After lunch, they all went shopping and did a tour of the east coast of the island, taking in a visit to a brand new house inland which Philip and Rosaline are in the course of having built, before returning for drinks to the hotel.

Philip mentioned in the 2018 issue that he was Chess Champion of the school for a number of years. Before then, the school's best player was **Robert Katz**. Clive and Robert have remained good friends ever since leaving school, and Robert was best man at his wedding. Your editor met up with both of them towards the end of October, and told Robert that Philip had given him an honourable mention in his memoirs chess book “Calypso Chess” a copy of which Philip has donated in person to the school library. Robert expressed a keen interest in having his own copy of the book. Having been told that Clive and Diana had booked their next trip to Barbados, it was your editor's idea to put Clive in touch with Philip to make this possible. Not only did Philip give Clive his last published copy of the book to take back to Robert, but Philip and Robert even managed to have a live chat with each other as well, courtesy of Clive.



A few months earlier, Clive and Diana went on a trip to Australia. While in Sydney, they met up with another old classmate, **Martin Derby** (1967 – 1974) who writes:

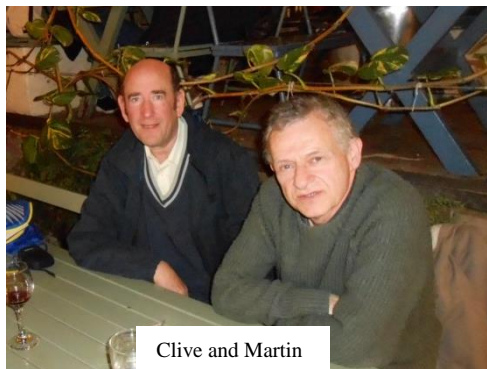
I remember many of my teachers and class mates. Playing playground football and in school teams, and which football club you supported, were really important and shaped who you hung out with, and who your friends were.

I was pretty lazy and easily distracted in classes, like many teenagers, but I could be studious when I put my mind to it. I did well enough in my subjects to go through the sixth form, got good A-level grades, and went on to Warwick University.

I graduated in History and Politics, and then applied for graduate trainee (anything) jobs. After about 18 months I got into local government, worked in London for a few years, and then left to work for the Open University (OU) in Milton Keynes. I worked for the OU from 1982 to 1998, and was lucky enough to be able to take part in a job exchange for six months in 1994-5 where I went to work at the University of Adelaide in South Australia.

When I got back to Milton Keynes, I applied to become a permanent resident of Australia, and migrated permanently in 1998.

I have lived in various suburbs of Sydney for over 20 years, have married an Australian, become an Australian citizen, and support Australia at cricket. So my life is a long way from Hendon – but I still keep some of the connections. Three Hendon school mates were invited to my wedding in Sydney in 2005, and one of them – Simon Selo – came out and was my best man.



Before I moved to Australia I attended at least one Hendon school reunion, can't remember when, but probably in the 1980s.

I love cricket, and go to the test match in Sydney every year. On Day 1 of Australia vs England in January 2003, I was in the stand and got talking to the gentleman sitting next to me ... we found out we both knew Hendon – he lived there, I had gone to school there ... then talking a

bit more, it was apparent that we had both gone to Hendon School ... then we worked out we were in the same year, and after about ten minutes we gave each other our names. We laugh now at how slow we both were. Obviously, we must have changed a bit in the 25 or so years that had elapsed since we had last seen each other, but we got there.

It was so great to see Clive, to reminisce about school people, and update ourselves on all that had happened. Clive and I have kept in touch, and Clive arranges for us to meet up in Sydney when he is over visiting family.

**David Kingston** (1948 – 1955) writes:

My main news is that last October I retired from my club's competitive rowing squad on my 81<sup>st</sup> birthday. I am still rowing for fun, however.

**Jonty (Jonathon) Stern** (1982 – 1987) writes:

My big news - I was on *My Family Secrets Revealed* in late 2018, being told on TV about the roguish exploits of my great-grandfather, Simon Stern!

**Hazel Dakers, née Birney** (1960 – 1967) writes:

My “news” as it relates to Hendon is that all these years on, I am still in contact a couple of times a year with a number of former classmates, and some are amongst my closest friends whom I see frequently. I have just returned from a 10 week trip in Asia and Australia (this will be the biggest holiday of my lifetime), and in Melbourne I stayed with Hilary McVey née Daniels and her husband, Noel, and travelled with Hilary in and around Adelaide. Our mothers pushed us in prams together and we went to each school together – not only Hendon.

And finally ... **Roger Edwards** (1961 – 1963) has sent in this rather fine photo of himself and his wonderful wife Christine, at last year's Henley Regatta.



# The Really Old Hendonians

**T**hey say ‘One should never go back’ so three of us went back, to Hendon School which was called, rather grandly, Hendon County Grammar School in 1946/7 when we enlisted.

We are, in order of seniority, height, weight and inside leg measurement, Mr. Philip Churcher, Mr. Brian Worboys and me, Mr. Anthony (Tony) Lee. I was named after my uncle, but everyone calls me Tony now, a fact that would cause him to turn in his grave had he not been cremated.



*L to R: Brian, Tony and Phil*

We were invited to visit the school in June 2018. The front of the school had hardly changed, The BOYS and GIRLS entrance still identifiable, but probably obsolete now in these difficult gender days. We reported to the friendly ladies in the Reception area. After fingerprinting and DNA samples were taken, we were accorded ‘Visitor’ status. I was relieved that no urine samples were required as, like Captain Oates, I may have been away for some time.

We were greeted by the Headmistress and the school Archivist. After an excellent lunch, with sandwiches that did not curl up even though there was much laughter, we toured the school. We entered a language class where a Japanese lesson was in progress. The students had clearly not yet advanced to Shakespearean translations, since my quote “Sushi or not Sushi, hat is kweschon” was greeted with bemused silence.

The Music lesson was a revelation, a most enthusiastic teacher, students composing music on computers no less. And I thought I was good when I was promoted to 2<sup>nd</sup> Triangle player under the watchful and baleful eye of Miss Poulton. As we left, someone rather touchingly played the theme tune from ‘Last of the summer wine.’ I looked at my two compatriots – who would we play in that gentle comedy?

Phil would obviously be ‘COMPO’, for in our time at school there was many a ‘Nora Batty’ happy to share in his company. Brian would be ‘CLEGG’, whimsical, observant and with a wonderfully dry sense of humour. I would be FOGGY (please refer to my school report), as I had not the foggiest idea about most things academic. Good footballer, though.

Later on Mr. Alan Freedman, the kindly, ever smiling and patient School Archivist, took us to his secret Archive hideaway. Fascinating records, photographs and a Punishment book which detailed all the canings handed out, with gusto, by E. W. Maynard Potts, the Headmaster. Even the reasons were documented. Fighting was a common entry, but I could not find any reference to my one caning. It was a minor offence – but I guess the Headmaster decided that writing “Because I felt like it” might be inappropriate, even in those harsh disciplinarian times.

Phil, Brian and I left over sixty years ago, yet still feel an affection for the school which, unbeknown to us at the time, laid the foundation for our lives ahead. So, that’s it, three cheers for Hendon, Hendon County and, oh! what the hell, Mr. E. W. Maynard Potts.



**Tony Lee (1947 – 1952)**



One of Hendon's most iconic landmarks – the **Hendon Hall Hotel** – closed permanently at the end of 2018 after being bought by property developers, and is now to be turned into a high class nursing home.

The hotel holds pleasant memories for the many Old Hendonians who had reunions there over the years. It was also a favoured venue for various other clubs and functions for nearly a century.



The building – originally known as Hendon Manor – dates from the 16<sup>th</sup> century, but can trace its origins back to the Domesday Book. Its rich history includes stints as a property of Westminster Abbey, and seizure by King Henry VIII during the English Reformation. It was a girls' school and an RAF convalescence home before it became a hotel in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Perhaps its most celebrated guests were the England football team, who stayed there during their successful World Cup winning tournament in 1966.

The sale price is, no doubt, a far cry from the £13,000 paid for the property by actor and Drury Lane Theatre manager David Garrick back in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century.

Garrick was such an admirer of Shakespeare that he created a memorial to him in the hall's grounds.

It had been the home of the Rotary Club of Hendon for 70 years – now they have moved to the Holiday Inn Hotel in Brent Cross.

Club President Robert Larty said: "It's the end of an era. Hendon Rotary Club was established 91 years ago, and we've been meeting at Hendon Hall for 71 of those years. "There's a lot of the Club's history there."



The corner of **Brent Street and The Crest** – a place our readers will surely remember well from their school journeys – was in the news at lunchtime on 18 June 2018, when a 20 metre long brick fascia above a row of shops collapsed, forcing shoppers to flee and leaving tons of bricks strewn across the street.

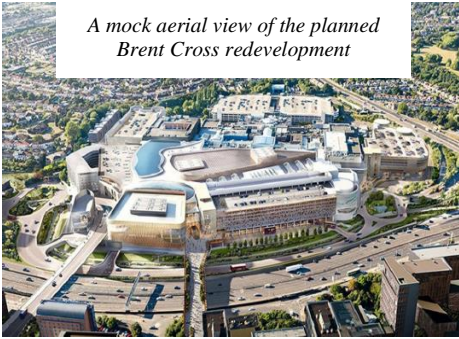


Videos posted on social media shortly after the drama unfolded showed the pavement covered in rubble as a number of people were helped out of clothes shop The Wardrobe. One woman was seen holding her hands to her head in shock, while a stunned crowd of people looked on. Luckily, no-one was hurt.

Police cars and fire engines were soon at the scene, and a large section of the road was cordoned off.



*A mock aerial view of the planned Brent Cross redevelopment*



Part of the ambitious plans mentioned in the 2018 issue, for the development of the **Brent Cross and Cricklewood area**, have been put on hold for the time being.

The £1.4 billion plan to extend Brent Cross shopping centre has been deferred due to “turbulence in the UK retail markets”.

Work on the project – owned by developer Hammerson and Aberdeen Standard Investments – had originally been due to begin in July 2018, but was later pushed back to January 2019.

In a strategy update, Hammerson gave no definite start date for the project, as it announced plans to offload £1.1 billion worth of its other properties by the end of 2019, and to focus more on its city centre and premium shopping outlets.

It said: “In the UK, due to increased market risks and while alternative uses of capital offer higher immediate financial returns, we will defer starting on site with our development at Brent Cross.

The scheme remains an important strategic project, and we continue to recognise its role as one of London’s leading retail destinations and will support its future success.”

The expansion plan for the retail outlet is part of a larger £4.5 billion regeneration plan for Brent Cross and Cricklewood, which will provide thousands of new homes and a new Thameslink station.

Alison Hopkins, a former Lib Dem councillor for Dollis Hill in Brent, said she thought Hammerson’s announcement meant the expansion would not proceed.

She said: “The expansion was approved prior to e-commerce and broadband, and it is very car-centric.

The whole retail market is in trouble.

“If this is dead in the water, it is good news for people where I live. There will be no massive rubbish dump, and there won’t be 29,000 extra cars on our roads.”

*Another artist’s impression of the Brent Cross redevelopment*



Barnet Council’s Barry Rawlings said Hammerson’s announcement was a concern, but would not be fatal to the development. He said: “I have never come across a big building project that has not overrun. For Hammerson to survive means it has to make Brent Cross a success. The fact that they are selling other things means they are going to focus more on Brent Cross. It is a sign that something will go ahead.”

Leader of Barnet Council Richard Cornelius said: “Whilst we are naturally disappointed that there will be a deferral in the works due to start at Brent Cross Shopping Centre, we welcome the long-term commitment shown today in the centre and overall scheme.

Brent Cross is set to become north London’s top destination for living, leisure, retail and business. It is the biggest regeneration programme in Barnet, and will deliver significant benefits for the borough and the capital.”

A Hammerson spokesperson said: “We remain committed to Brent Cross, and recognise its role as one of London’s leading retail destinations.”

The Army was called in to investigate an unexploded bomb after it was unearthed on a building site in **Rowan Drive, Hendon**, on 19 June 2018.

Revealed to be a World War Two bomb, it was destroyed in a controlled explosion the following day. A structure of heavy sandbags was placed on top of the explosive and wired with other explosives, readying the device for detonation.



An 86 metre cordon was set up around the bomb and the building site was closed, as well as the nearby North London Grammar School.

The Dambusters raid is one of the most celebrated operations in British military history. Now, thanks to virtual reality technology, everyone can get a sense of what the RAF crews endured.

The immersive experience places the viewer inside the Lancaster bomber of Wing Commander Guy Gibson, who led 617 Squadron's raid on the Ruhr region of Nazi Germany.

Visitors are seated in a life-size replica of the fuselage, and can touch the aircraft's windows and walls as a perilous phase of the mission unfolds on their virtual reality (VR) headsets.

Each viewer wears a vibrating vest sewn into an inflatable "Mae West" life jacket of the type used by Second World War airmen. The vest's rumble packs are programmed to shudder at key moments, allowing users to feel the roar of the Lancaster's engines and the boom of the German guns.

The pioneering experience has been created with advice from the Imperial War Museum, and is now on offer at the **RAF Museum in Hendon**.

Relatives of 617 Squadron and Bomber Command veterans helped to test the prototype. "We've had the nephews and nieces of Lancaster crews through," said Ollie Lindsey of All Seeing Eye, the Gloucestershire-based technology studio behind the experience. "We've had one daughter of a wireless operator. For her, seeing what her dad actually experienced was overwhelming."

The team has gone to remarkable lengths to ensure the

experience is accurate, drawing on a range of written material including Gibson's memoirs. These accounts were cross-referenced with information from surveillance photos of the mission to destroy dams in Germany's industrial heartland with bouncing bombs. The designers were also granted access to original plaster cast models of the Ruhr constructed by the RAF during preparations for the 1943 raid.

"Our writers worked with the Imperial War Museum to ensure we weren't over-Hollywoodising or over-embellishing any of the details around the mission," Mr Lindsey said.

The experience chronicles a crucial six-minute section of Operation Chastise, covering the first run of Gibson's aircraft, "G for George". "You're literally in the heart of the action," Mr Lindsey said. "Within those six minutes you come under flak fire and experience the roar of the engines and the evasive manoeuvres they had to pull.

This physicality is really important. It gives people a sense of the crowdedness and crampedness of the space. It really helps get across the jeopardy that these people were put in."

The project has received funding from Creative XR, a programme supported by Arts Council England and Digital Catapult to support the development of VR and augmented reality experiences in the creative industries. All Seeing Eye has created installations for arts organisations such as the National Theatre and believes

that VR has huge potential for heritage bodies, allowing visitors to be transported to another place and time.

"It can go beyond the 'do not touch' aspect of museums and give people a really visceral first-person experience," Mr Lindsey said. "We're interested in how technology can help preserve and build upon

the retelling of history."

The Dambusters VR prototype puts the users in the shoes of the Lancaster's wireless operator. It is being expanded into a two-person experience, so that another museum visitor can take the role of navigator.

The installation is open to the public at the RAF Museum on the site of the former Hendon Aerodrome, in time for the 75th anniversary of the Dambuster raids.

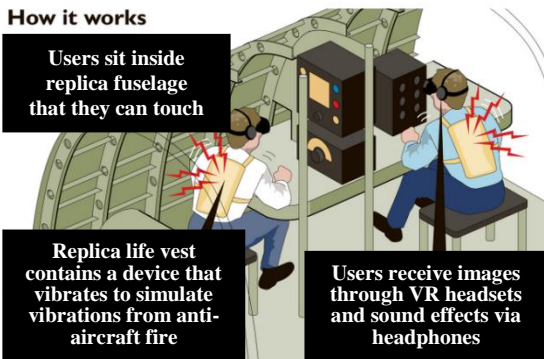
*[Adapted from The Times, 28 July 2018]*

### How it works

Users sit inside replica fuselage that they can touch

Replica life vest contains a device that vibrates to simulate vibrations from anti-aircraft fire

Users receive images through VR headsets and sound effects via headphones





## FROM THE ARCHIVES



*The school used to publish a regular magazine, with contributions from staff and pupils. The following article, by Mr Potts, is taken from the 1971 edition, the publication of which coincided with his retirement after 30 years as Headmaster.*

### Being a Headmaster

**N**o one told me what I was to do. I was appointed and expected to know. Slowly I worked out my own answers. Later I wrote articles and helped to run courses to tell young headmasters and headmistresses what I thought they ought to do.

I realised that the community which paid for the school had the right to expect the Head to produce the kind of young men and young women it wanted. Schools have been run with such varied aims as producing good soldiers, good believers, patriotic citizens, leaders of empire or future scientists. Recently, schools have been expected to reduce the effects of inborn differences between pupils.

Against this, I had to balance the desire of each pupil to develop his or her own individuality in freedom. To me this was more important than imposing equality, of forcing all pupils to conform to a standard pattern. Moreover I thought then, as I still do now, that our complicated society is best served by pupils who are allowed to be different. Originality and individuality can so easily be destroyed by a school, yet these are the qualities required if society is to progress.

There have been many times when I have had to balance the needs of one pupil against the safety of the rest. How far could I allow dishonesty, indiscipline or immorality in one pupil to endanger the rest of the school? How many chances ought I to give to a difficult pupil? As the school became steadily more effective and more united, so was I able to take greater risks in the hope of saving a pupil who might otherwise have been discarded as a failure.

I learned to keep a balance between parents and the pupil. Some parents expected too much from their sons and daughters; others guided them so closely that they were slow in developing responsibility; some, alas, filled the home with bitterness and antagonism and then wondered why their children were not successful and co-operative. Often when staff complained about pupils, I made quiet enquiries about the home background and there found many of the causes; at other times it became clear that the teacher's own methods were encouraging the faults which he criticised. I learned not to shirk the unpopular actions which duty then required me to take on behalf of the pupils.

My great need was information upon which difficult decisions could be based. At first it seemed that my decisions had to be made before I had time to collect enough

information, but with experience I began to see the crises coming and to prepare in advance to solve them. With foreknowledge it was even possible to prevent some crises developing. In this work of collecting information, impressions and opinions, the form teacher became most important; through the 23 form teachers I had rapid access to the views of pupils, parents and subject teachers. In what appeared to be casual conversation at break or at midday I could receive a multitude of impressions about approaching difficulties; in return I could offer information and advice.

In order to have time to talk with staff, parents and pupils in school, and to collect ideas from many sources outside school, I needed to hand over many of my routine tasks to others. I am grateful to a succession of deputy heads, senior mistresses and senior masters who have accepted responsibility for many educational decisions. The financial and organisational details have been excellently handled by my secretaries. Thus freed from many daily decisions, I have been able to consider long-term trends and to have time to write and talk about individual pupils.

In dealing with the outside world of education committees and companies, universities and employers, the press and the BBC, I accepted my role as a figurehead representing with honesty and consistency the views of the school. Mistakes which were made were not always my own, but I knew that the responsibility was mine for allowing a fault to develop in a pupil or a teacher without taking effective steps to remove the fault. At times, it was my fate to put forward solutions which I knew would be unpopular with some at least of the many people connected with the school. It is in accepting such unpopularity that I have most needed personal integrity. A Head has a lonely life at times, and he becomes a target for abuse from some pupils and parents, some staff and education committee members. He is even attacked by people who have never met him, but who are in search of any figure of authority to attack.

It is, however, the very difficulty of some of the tasks which makes the life of a Head so rewarding. It is possible for a Head slowly to attract and build up a brilliant team of teachers, and to give them the conditions in which they can produce what appears to be the impossible. Such a school enhances the abilities of the pupils in its care, and finds ways of recognising and developing their individualities. In such a school almost every pupil can be offered freedom and choice; the few who abuse such freedom can often be helped to see their mistakes, and so become all the more valuable as individuals because they have deliberately turned their backs on antagonism in order to join helpfully in the school community. It is not strange that these are the ones who remember me most, because it has been my task to help them when disaster threatened.

Although I hope that some of the pupils who have left school will continue to remember me, I should like my policies to be rapidly forgotten in the school itself, so that the new Head with a changing staff team may make his own decisions without being reminded of what his predecessor might have done.

*E. W. Maynard Potts*





## STAFF PHOTO – 1947 / 1948

**Back row:** Mr Nelson (History), Mr MacDonald (Maths), Mr Walters (Science), Mr Morris (Maths), Mr Roderick (Geography), Mr Hopper (Physics), Mr Betts\* (History / Economics), Mr Eustace (PE).

**Middle row:** Miss Wright (Chemistry), Mr Gallimore (German / Russian), unknown, Miss Thornton (English), Mr Lewis (Woodwork), Mr Chivers (Senior Master), Miss Williams\* (Maths), Miss Allen (English), Miss Dutton (Latin / Spanish), Miss Holmes (German), Miss Clarke (PE), Miss Woodward (Domestic Science), Herr Straub (German conversation).

**Front row:** Miss Ward (Art - standing), Mrs Long, Miss Weaver (Latin), Miss Poulton (Music), Mr Potts (Headmaster), Miss Munt (English), Mrs Moss née Camp (Geography), Miss Holden.

\* denotes first year on teaching staff

*Grateful thanks are due to Philip Churcher and his friends, Ashleigh Brilliant, Betty Drummond (née Prested) and others for helping to identify all but one of the members of staff in this picture, and the subjects they taught. Can any reader name the one remaining female teacher? If so, please let your editor know.*

# DAVID EADON MEETS...



## KETAN HIRANI



Ketan Hirani was a student at Hendon School from 1989 to 1996. He is now Managing Director of PictureFrame.TV, whose televisions are a bespoke work of art which blend into the interior design scheme of any home.

In 2015, Ketan's company won the prestigious Asian Professional Design and Creative Award, and was also named Best Flatscreen in the Smart Home Building Awards.



### ***What was the general atmosphere like in Hendon School when you were there?***

It was a lovely place to be a student. There was a warmth about the school. The teachers cared and worked hard for their students.

### ***In which areas of education did you excel?***

I would say CDT, Art, Maths, and Science. I use all these in my present occupation. I must also add that I was a member of the school choir and helped Mr Trevor Easterfield with the organisation of Christmas and Summer concerts.



*At the Asian Awards ceremony*

***Are there any amusing anecdotes you can relate from your time at Hendon?***

On my last day in the Sixth Form, a small group of us moved the Head of Sixth Form's car onto the PE field. The school took a very dim view of this, and we were suspended until our exams commenced.

***If I asked you to sum up your time at the school in one sentence - what would you say?***

It was a great time of my life in which I was able to discover my academic strengths.

***How has your career unfolded since leaving Hendon School?***

I studied Automotive Engineering at Kingston University and then Maths at Middlesex University. I worked as a Mortgage Broker for Bairstow Eves at a time when houses were as 'cheap as chips'. My sales work led me to establish PictureFrame.TV - where I have been Managing Director for 8 years.

***What have your career achievements taught you?***

They have taught me that any success takes time. You must have limitless patience.

***How did your interest in classic cars develop?***

I always loved cars as a child. I have attended many car shows. My business has allowed me to buy and sell cars.



***If an older teenager asked you for advice in setting up their own business - what would you say?***

You must be passionate about your work because you will always face challenges. A lack of passion will inevitably lead to you giving up.

***What are your immediate future projects?***

My company is expanding into the hotel and furniture market. We are also increasingly involved in voluntary work.

***How would your friends describe you in three words?***

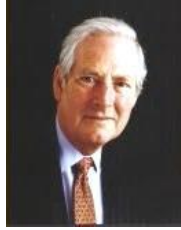
Loud. Industrious. Generous.

***Which quality do you most admire in a person?***

Kindness. Particularly in the way people treat others.

***Thank you very much Ketan for giving up your time for our Old Hendonian readers***

## DAVID HORCHOVER REMEMBERS



1946 – 1952

**M**r. Fowler, our groundsman and all round good chap, used to occupy what we called “The Underground” – entrance via the south playground – and which seemed to extend for ever under the school. Here he would console lads who thought they had been badly treated with a few kind words, and give out footballs / cricket gear to the team captain to take home on Friday evenings when playing away on the Saturday, so that we had a ball to warm up with before the match. He marked out all the pitches (football and cricket) and running tracks, and probably did far more than we shall ever know.

The truly interesting thing about Mr. Fowler was that he was probably in the worst job for a person who was seriously averse to the sun and had to wear gloves all the time, keep his arms covered, and wear a hat. He never complained, but at times I think he did suffer quite a bit. Maybe he would have some special antiseptic cream today which could have helped clear up his condition. Or at least made it more “comfortable.”

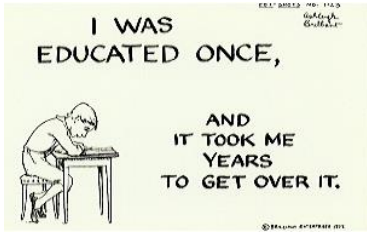
I wrote about him for the School Magazine one summer ... and the item was selected as one to appear in the best of 75 years of the magazine. Fame indeed!



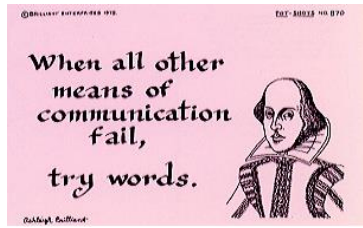
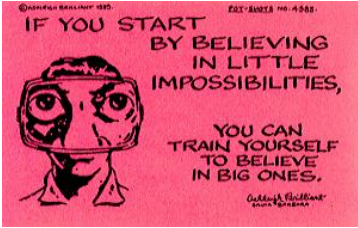
*Mr Fowler in front of air raid shelters at rear of school*



◆ The Ashleigh Brilliant Corner ◆



1947-1952



**THE CLASS OF 1957 - 1964**

You may recall reading in the 2015 issue of the Old Hendonian that the **Class of 1957 – 1964** held a very successful “Golden Anniversary” reunion at the Hendon Hall Hotel in November 2014.

They are now planning to hold their next reunion, this coming November. So far, an impressive 42 classmates have confirmed they hope to attend, as well as their old maths teacher, Paddy Murphy, who came to the 2014 reunion and is now a sprightly 94 year old.

Readers are encouraged to spread the word about the reunion to anyone from the Class of 1957 – 1964 who they may still be in touch with.

Any enquiries can be addressed in the first instance to your editor, who hopes to include a write-up about the event in next year’s issue of the Old Hendonian.



## ACHIEVEMENTS AND AWARDS

In the first newsletter of the autumn term the Headteacher, Rhona Povey, commented on the success of students at all levels of public examinations, extra-curricular pursuits, and their contributions to wider society. An awards ceremony was at this stage being planned, and took place on 8 November in the atrium at Middlesex University. It was an impressive ceremony recognising all aspects of students' achievements. There was a beautiful musical interlude provided by two students, Eddie Zhang and Suraya Ahmed, and the head of music, Ms Zou.



## MENTAL HEALTH AND SOCIAL ACTION

### Diana Award winner

Sixty young people in the UK won Diana Awards last year. One was from Hendon School – Angel Hemmings. The Diana Award website states that “in order to win a Diana Award, these exceptional young people have demonstrated their ability to inspire and mobilise new generations to service their communities through



campaigning, volunteering, fundraising, tackling bullying or overcoming extreme life challenges.” Angel’s nomination spoke of her “generosity of spirit”, and her passion “about improving mental health.” She had the “enthusiasm and ability to inspire others” and had completed “over 300 hours of volunteering.” As Head of Communication, she had been crucial to the smooth running of the Mental Health Conference in 2017. She had brought about important changes to mental health in Barnet by organising meetings with the local Mental Health Trust, the Care Commissioning Group, and local councillors. This is a truly remarkable achievement.

### SOS: Stamp out stigma

This was the third, very successful mental health and well-being conference organised by students. Right from the outset, the challenge for the organisers was immense. From 300 delegates two years ago to more than 400 last year, it was necessary to increase the student team of organisers, and more than 30



volunteered from Years 9 to 12. The day, which was hosted at Middlesex University, comprised keynote speakers and workshops, not to mention goody bags for all the participants. The day ended with the mental health dance challenge – literally “stamping out” stigma. Discussions are already under way with Barnet Council

for a possible conference in 2019. Other schools are now following Hendon's example. "... From a conference of 300 delegates to a conference of over 400, we had grown in numbers, and we know that there is always strength in numbers." – Angel Hemmings, then of Year 10

### **World Mental Health Day – 10 October 2018**

As part of their preparations for the day, the Mental Health Team made a video with Hendon students talking about “#Hands Up4 Healthy Minds.” Students also gave a speech to civil servants from the Departments of Health and Social Care and Education to explain the work of Hendon School in this very important area.

There are many sources of support inside and outside the school. For example, a local website called Kooth offers online mental health services for children. Another website, youngminds.org.uk, offers confidential advice and support to parents.

### **Silence the violence: Inform, Innovate and Inspire our anti-gang team**

Students are supported and encouraged to take action in the community. Thirteen students, with the assistance of Mr Alfred-Kamara, organised various events based on the theme of personal safety. For example, they hosted a conference for 150 local primary school pupils to discuss the dangers of gangs, how to deal with peer pressure, and what constitutes healthy relationships. In addition, they organised an anti-gang and safety day for Year 8 Hendon students. They also conducted some research into the attitudes of young people towards community safety and gangs. The team led a



community walk to meet shopkeepers, business owners and bus drivers. Finally, they presented their work to other schools and the Deputy Mayor of London at an

event at City Hall. Thanks to winning a Bright Futures grant in 2018, the project can continue this year. The demand for this conference from local primary schools was very great and again, Middlesex University was the chosen venue. They have requested that this conference should become an annual event. Apparently, students and teachers were talking about it for days afterwards.

**“If you think you can, you can.”** Such is the motto of the Jack Petchey awards scheme. This recognises students who have overcome problems in

their lives and/or continue to work for the community. Six students were selected from nominations by staff and their peer groups. What they all have in common is the desire to improve the lives of others through social action.

Reference was made to **Team London** last year. Staff were asked to nominate students for the Team London Youth Advisory Board. The successful student was Faiza Abdalla from Year 9. Faiza will work to develop the Team London Young Ambassadors programme, and will speak at a range of events.

### **SOCIAL ENTERPRISE**

#### **Entrepreneurial School Times Educational Supplement (TES) Awards**

These awards are an annual national and European recognition of outstanding schools which promote entrepreneurship education.

Hendon School was nominated by Young Enterprise for encouraging social enterprise throughout the school. In the last year, 300 students took part in such work. In so doing, they raised thousands of pounds for charity. They completed 4000 volunteering hours.

Students were delighted to have been nominated as the UK winners. They will be travelling to Vienna in November to share their work with 14 other schools in Europe which have also been recognised.

### **CHARITY WORK**

Students from Hendon volunteered for a total of 250 hours in charity shops. The experiences gained are most useful, and can be

used as their service section of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. The All Aboard chain of shops is one of the school's charity partners, and each year they hold a volunteer recognition evening. Soufia Kouhikar of Year 10 received a certificate for being a “young superstar volunteer.”



The new edition of “Egg” magazine – which showcases students' artistic talents – is out and contains photographs, drawings and paintings as well as articles by students and former students. Proceeds from sales will go to the World Wildlife Fund.

### **SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS**

#### **The PDS (Provision for Deaf Students)**

**department** organised a workshop provided by RAD (the Royal Association for the Deaf). It was called

“Money Mechanics” aimed at young people in order to help them understand and find their way around the banking system – essential knowledge for when students leave school and start to earn money for themselves. A variety of topics was covered, including budgeting, the minimum wage, youth employment, risk and savings. There were also sessions on how to choose a bank, different types of bank accounts, overdrafts, interest and ISAs. The students were thoroughly engaged, and would no doubt like to repeat the experience at a later date, as it was clearly so helpful.

## CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

**The Creative Writing Club (CWC)** takes place on Wednesdays at lunchtime. This is a new venture, and Hendon News will be publishing some of their pieces in future issues. The club organised an outing to one of the homes of Charles Dickens at 48 Doughty Street. It was a reward for having regularly attended the CWC. The students were fascinated to learn about life in a Victorian household, particularly the washtub which was also used to make the Christmas (or plum)

pudding. There was also a workshop: “A Christmas Carol: Creating Scrooge” and an opportunity to write with a quill pen. The museum holds some of Dickens’



possessions as well as his wife’s. The four students who wrote about Dickens and his house in Doughty Street obviously enjoyed it all very much, and warmly recommend it to those who have not yet visited.

### Photography

This has now become an established feature of Hendon School’s Art Department, and in the summer of 2018 there was an exhibition of students’ work in the library, featuring work at GCSE and A-level.



The Year 10s, studying for GCSE, were taken to the Photographers’ Gallery as well as the Autograph Gallery in the East End of London. In these two galleries, the students were able to see different artists at work, and were expected to be able to differentiate between staged portraiture and documentary work from Northern England in the 1970s. One artist who made a deep impression was Franklyn Rodgers, whose larger than life portraits of his mother recalled the contributions of the Windrush generation.

Later, in October, a number of Year 11, 12 and 13 photography students visited the Brighton Photo Biennial. There were several different and contrasting venues, from almost hidden mews spaces to the University of Brighton’s largest gallery. Three students from Hendon School won distinction as part of the Brighton Fringe Young Photographers’ competition – each one had her photograph printed in A3 size and put up as part of the display.



### Chess Club

It is really good to welcome back an activity which was a very strong feature of Hendon School. Thanks to Alan Freedman’s enthusiasm for chess, he has not only established a school tournament, but has also produced a chess team able to compete with other schools. A team of nine chess players was taken to Hampstead School, where they won all but two of the games. Alan called this “a truly fantastic outcome,” as most of the Hendon team were younger than the Hampstead one. In November, the temptation of seeing grandmasters Magnus Carlsen of Norway and Fabiano Caruana of the USA contest the World Chess Championship final in London proved too great to resist – so four lucky students, one each from years 8 to 11, accompanied by Alan and two members of staff, sat down to watch the fifth game, which ended in a draw. There was also the opportunity for some friendly games with other enthusiasts, as well as trying to guess which would be the chess masters’ next move. Well done to those who guessed correctly! In the end, Magnus Carlsen emerged victorious and retained his title of World Champion.

### Thrive London Cultural Festival

As part of the above, a group of art students joined in a workshop with a contemporary artist called Fandango Kid. She specialises in street art which explores issues of grief and loss. The workshop lasted for three hours, and the students from Years 10, 11, 12 and 13 thoroughly enjoyed the experience of working with her.

## VISITS OUT

### Visit to the National Memorial Arboretum

This is situated in Alrewas, near Litchfield in Staffordshire. Part of the Royal British Legion group of charities, it was opened in May 2001 following an idea of Commander David Childs, who wanted to establish a



national focus and all year round site of remembrance. It comprises over 30,000 trees. There are memorials to many branches of the Armed Forces. Following a regeneration project, including a Visitors' Centre, the purpose remains true to the original:

- To honour the fallen;
- To recognise service and sacrifice;
- To foster pride in the British Armed Forces and in the civilian community.

A Year 9 outing was organised both as part of the history curriculum and religious studies. The students attended a class on World War I. They also attended a memorial service led by rabbis, teachers, ex-soldiers, and students. The student who wrote an article about the visit was particularly struck by the lines written on the Kohima Epitaph:

“When you go home, tell them of us and say: for their tomorrow we gave our today.” (Lines, c. WWI, written by John Maxwell Edmonds, 1875-1958. He was a classicist and was probably inspired by the lines written after the Battle of Thermopylae.)

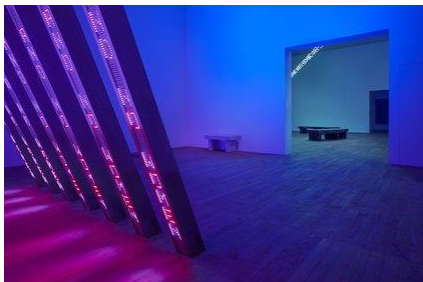
### Maths Masterclass

Two Year 9 students and their teacher, Mr Jennings, joined some 400 students invited to the Royal Institution for a masterclass maths event. The day started off with warm-up puzzles, followed by a lecture showing the relevance of maths to biology and the study of epidemics. Lunchtime involved more maths problems, while the second lecture was about paradoxes in maths and physics.

The lecture theatre at the Royal Institution is famous throughout the world as the home of Michael Faraday's lectures on electromagnetism. In the museum, one can see some of the equipment which Faraday actually used.

### GCSE Art and Design Visit

A group of Year 10 and 11 students visited Tate Modern as part of their GCSE course. Year 10 studied still life, while Year 11 studied the built environment and architecture. Both of these themes are linked to the requirements of their exam.



### Exchange Programme to Japan

Melanie, then in Year 10, was a most appreciative member of the group who spent time in Japan. She found the experience very worthwhile, but most of all appreciated the encounter of family life and the politeness of Japanese society. Like many first-time visitors to Japan, she was struck by the way that Japanese students clean the school at the end of the day and also say “thank you” before and after meals. Not only that, but the Japanese school changed the date of sports day so that the Hendon School visitors could participate. The visit was also important in another way: new friendships were forged amongst members of the Hendon School group who had previously hardly known each other.

### SPORT

Year 10 student Mukthar won the **Barnet Cross Country title** as well as the 1500 metre gold medal, which he won at the 2018 Barnet Athletics Championships. This qualified him to represent Barnet in the Middlesex Championships at Harrow in January.

### Year 7 and 8 Athletics

In the latter half of the summer term, students were training really hard and competing against other Barnet schools. Seven were selected to represent Barnet in the Middlesex Championships.

### National Trampolining Competition

Two sisters from Hendon School competed in the Trampolining National Development Plan Competition, held in Birmingham with the top gymnasts in the country. Ayome and Myssa gave great performances, and were placed 20<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> respectively. This places them amongst the top 20 gymnasts (for their age group) in the country.

### In conclusion ...

It has been another busy year at Hendon School. The energy of the students is magnificent, and the enthusiasm of the staff in supporting such a wide variety of activities is truly remarkable.

# LETTER FROM THE HEADTEACHER

## ☪ RHONA POVEY ☪

### Dear Old Hendonians and Friends



Once again, I am pleased to be able to write to you as part of the Old Hendonian magazine. I know you will be pleased to hear how Hendon School is thriving,

continuing our long tradition of excellence. This has been a tremendously exciting year for everyone at Hendon School.

In November, one of our Year 11 students was awarded the extremely prestigious Diana Award for her continued work raising awareness of mental health issues. Angel has more recently been part of the Diana Award media campaign to encourage nominations for next year's award.

In school, our Student Mental Health Team have now



created and promoted a mental health app to identify and to locate available support for children, and this has now been shared with all students in Barnet. Our work in this important area was also recognised last



month with the presentation of a mayoral Civic Award.

We have embarked on a project to build new facilities for creative arts in the form of a fabulous drama and dance studio building. It



will provide four large studios which can be combined, giving opportunities for larger performance spaces. The preparation work for the building has been completed, and pylons drilled into the ground to give secure foundations. Younger students have enjoyed watching the ongoing progress of the building, and Sixth Form maths and engineering students have taken advantage of discussion sessions with the architects to explore finer details of the construction. The expected completion date for our studio block is in the middle of August, in time for the new school year. An opening ceremony will be held early in September. Please do let me know if you are interested in joining us for this event. Funding for the building has been raised by selling the old caretaker's house, with additional money from

## Believe

We support each student to feel safe, have confidence and to be ready for everyday life. We help each student to be the person that they want to be.

## Achieve

We support each student to realise their full potential in all aspects of life - academic, creative, physical and social. We help our students to always do their best.



## Lead

We work together to lead improvement. We recognise the skills and strengths of leadership. Everyone has a part to play in the future of our Hendon School community.

## Belong

We connect with others to build effective and harmonious relationships within school and our wider community. At every stage we aim to develop shared values.

a government conditional fund. We are now working hard to raise the funds needed to equip the studio with performance lighting, sound equipment and a sprung dance floor.

At the other side of the school, the library continues to grow in popularity, and our librarians have worked hard to establish the space as an area for quiet study and shared learning. We had our first *DEAR Day* (Drop Everything and Read) of the academic year in December, which was a huge success. This was followed by another in March to coincide with *World Book Day*, where reading was celebrated with an author visit and a *Harry Potter Book night*. Year 7 form groups have visited the library during mentoring periods to learn how to write book reviews. Once written, the reviews will form part of a book review area in the library that all students will be encouraged to contribute to. Our twice weekly *Paired Reading Programme* has got off to a successful start for forty of our Year 7 students. Lots of thought and preparation has gone into training our sixth formers who

read with the younger readers – and as a result, students have been very engaged.

Staff continue to develop their own skills and learning experiences. Six members of staff, working in two groups, are currently researching the achievement of boys' numeracy across the curriculum and smart marking. They have studied the latest

writing in these areas, and through pilot projects are now monitoring the impact of their own theories. Student co-planners are also involved in the projects, and will be looking at both topics from a student perspective.

I am looking forward to meeting many of you at the *Alumni Reunion* this year. I hope that you will come to meet up with friends old and new, and to see how Hendon School is today.

With best wishes

Rhona Povey  
Headteacher – Hendon School

## CURRENT YEAR 7 STUDENTS: HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR FIRST YEAR AT HENDON SCHOOL

The maths and RE trip to St. Paul's Cathedral was very exciting; we thought about the patterns and symmetry of the architecture, and also the festivals and traditions of this Anglican cathedral.

St. Paul's Cathedral sits on the highest point of the City of London and is a Grade I listed building. We went to the top of the building which was really great fun. The steps upwards were quite scary, especially the ones near the top. It helped me to face my fears of heights.

The inside of St. Paul's Cathedral was breathtaking! This was one of the best experiences ever. Instead of learning in school, we went out to see it in reality. We were blown away by the sheer scale of the building. It was so high! The space was very spiritual, and everything was so beautiful.

I really enjoy the discussions that we have in class. We talk about the factors affecting society. Listening to the ideas of other people opens my mind and inspires me. I am proud to be part of such a thoughtful community.

For me, the highlights of Year 7 have been in extra-curricular activities that I have done. I am in the choir, the dance club and the chess club. I also go to art club. There is always so much to do!

*Our trip to Exterion Media was amazing. This company makes advertisements for buses and to use on the underground. We found out all about the jobs in the company and how their recruitment works. We met people who worked there and found out about what they did. It was also an opportunity to get to know other Year 7 pupils better.*

I have loved our SMART Futures lessons. They make us think about life from different viewpoints, and really examine what we believe and what we value in ourselves and other people. We use real life situations to think about how to react, and how to be the best person we can be.



*The manga club has been really cool. I enjoy meeting and seeing people who have the same interest as me.*

**I have had the privilege of being part of the Year 7 basketball team. This has helped my sports skills and also how I work within a team. I've loved it.**

*Even though it was frightening at the start to come to such a big school, everyone was so nice that we all settled in quickly and now I am completely at home here. I have made so many friends; I hope that they will be friends for life!*

**By Year 7 students: Georgi, Husseyin, Chidi, Riyan Djillona, Vinaya, Yas, Marwah, Max, Lucas, Aya, Morris, Deniz, Sean and Asmah**

## **CURRENT SIXTH FORMERS: THE BEST THINGS ABOUT OUR TIME AT HENDON SCHOOL**

I like Hendon School because of the constant help provided by members of staff. If I don't understand something in lesson, I never feel shy to ask for help. Even if I don't understand a certain topic, they will try to find different ways to explain it so that I can understand. The level of support teachers provide to students in this school is phenomenal.

In the Student Support Area, there is always someone available to listen to you and offer advice. Everyone at Hendon School cares about us and what we do.

Our teachers are well-qualified; they are able to explain their subjects really well. They also give an insight to their specialised subject areas, making everything so interesting. They work hard, and are also very open to helping the students outside the school hours, running Saturday sessions for the upper years to help them out before the exams, and arranging intervention sessions during exam time to help students with revision. I like the fact that all the teachers are very grounded.

I like the diversity and inclusivity at Hendon.

I absolutely loved Year 9 activities week. I took part in activities that, before we did them that week, I would've only dreamed about doing – rock climbing, pot-holing, trekking, camping, crate stacking, firecraft and going on the zip wire.

Being able to take part in the John Keats one week trip (English) in Year 10 made me love creative writing even more.

A few examples of the SMART futures opportunities that I have taken part in are: mental health first aid; money mentors; careers fair; WE Day; taster day at Royal Holloway; Uni Pathways (course about Quantum Physics); session on String Theory by professional string theorist; Young Engineers Session in Year 9 (we designed cars with differently shaped tops to investigate which was fastest); and a medical session (we were taught how to extract blood using a vacutainer, and also how to measure blood pressure without using a machine).

Hendon has provided many opportunities and pushed me to take up activities that I would not normally think were for me, such as the netball team, helping Year 7 maths classes and the money mentors course, during which I presented in front of a form during SMART Futures day for 45 minutes; it was out of my comfort zone and it made me proud of myself for going through with it.

All these activities have helped me develop my confidence, and made me be able to talk in front of people.

Taster lessons are really useful – for example in Year 7, when we had ten lessons for each of the four languages taught. Same with D.T., Textiles and Food Technology.

This school has provided the best learning opportunities for me and helped me to be the best that I can be. The school has the most caring staff that will give up their time to help us in any way that they can; they will always listen to our problems (school related or not) and try to help us in any way that they are able to.

**By Sixth Form students: Nurushba, Vinitha, Ahmed, Sara and Hamid**

## *Can You Help?*

As the previous issue of the magazine was the first for more than two years, it is perhaps not surprising that the list of Old Hendonians we have lost contact with is longer than usual.

As in the past, your editor would be most grateful for any help our readers can offer in tracing the present whereabouts of any of the following.

<b>Abdul Al-Hadad</b>	<b>S Bent</b>	<b>Anthony Young</b>	<b>James Garrett</b>
<b>D Goldberg</b>	<b>Mrs Y Googue</b>	<b>Jane Graves</b>	<b>Jackie Hodgson</b>
<b>Mrs O B Hughes</b>	<b>Brenda Johns</b>	<b>R G H Jones</b>	<b>Ronald E Keene</b>
<b>Shelley Kosky</b>	<b>Rohan Kriwaczek</b>	<b>Shirley Leaver</b>	<b>Stephen Lerner</b>
<b>Nir E Margalit</b>	<b>J J Quinn</b>	<b>Doreen L Warwick</b>	<b>Brian Wright</b>



Robin Stallwood-Betts taught History and French at Hendon County Grammar School from about 1961 to 1967. Believed to have joined the school straight from university, he was probably the youngest member of the teaching staff at the time. Sadly, he passed away a couple of years ago.



Your editor is grateful to **Dr Ian Bradbury** (1960 – 1962) for the following information:

“I was ... taken in by Mr Potts with a rather unspectacular set of O-level results ... Robin Betts really did change my life, because in the Upper Sixth I did entertain the possibility of applying to university, but had no O-level language having been a disaster at French at the previous school. Robin gave up lunch periods to give me guidance, and thanks to him and a more mature attitude on my part, I managed to pass while doing my year’s practical farming (a requirement for city kids) before starting my degree in Agriculture at Newcastle University. ...

After Newcastle I went to Canada for post-graduate work, first in Agronomy and, for my PhD, in Ecology. I then spent four years as a post-doc in the Forestry Dept. at Edinburgh University before becoming a lecturer at Liverpool University where I’ve been involved with a variety of environmental / ecological / resource issues. I’m now retired. So I owe a huge debt to Hendon County ...

As a coda, soon after arriving in Liverpool, someone (who I didn’t at first recognise) approached me and asked if I ever passed my French. It was Robin Betts, who had joined the Dept. of Education at the University some years previously. Quite a coincidence. Robin retired quite a few years ago and moved to Dorset, where sadly he died about two years ago.”

Ian has since established that Mr Stallwood-Betts was at Liverpool University from 1975 to 2002.

Ian has kindly provided the two pictures which follow on the next page. The first is of a geography field trip group in Yorkshire in 1962, showing Mr Stallwood-Betts on the very left in the front row. The second is of him and Ian at Liverpool University.

Some of his former pupils have since sent in the following tributes, which paint a vibrant picture of a highly respected, popular, and dedicated young teacher.

**Hazel Dakers, née Birney** (1960 – 1967):

So sad to hear about Robin Stallwood-Betts. I remember him as a very able teacher who commanded our respect and had his own particular sense of humour. His mind was far sharper than most. He was small, and probably a fairly new graduate, not all that much older than us. When I was at Hendon, he taught French and History.

**Barbara Shellard, née Brigden** (1960 – 1967):

Here are a few memories of Robin Stallwood-Betts (so called to distinguish him from the Head of History at the time, Mr Betts). He taught French to the lower school, certainly. I think he probably had a good A-level in it himself, but no degree. He was very good at a fairly elementary level; how many of us remember enjoying a game he invented to reinforce vocabulary and grammar - we called it French cricket?

I think he was probably a fairly recent graduate from Cambridge in 1960. He used the Greek letter grading system Oxbridge still uses, and he had very characteristic handwriting, making comments in a decisive felt tip pen. I can still recall glowing over the award of an alpha double minus for an essay I wrote comparing Jeffersonian and Jacksonian democracy. What he taught me about the American constitution has been very useful for understanding the situation in the States today.

He was an inspirational teacher; the only one I had in the sixth form that I could mention in the same breath as the best of all - Jack Driver. He was extremely knowledgeable, and good at communicating his knowledge often in a humorous way. He was interesting and genuinely interested in what his students believed,

encouraging independent thought. I shall remember him with affection and respect. He deserved both.

**Hilary McVey, née Daniels** (1960 – 1967):

I certainly remember Mr Stallwood-Betts, as he wasn't all that much older than we were when we were in the sixth form! I also have an idea he was the only teacher with a PhD. A really nice man and I am sorry to hear about his death, particularly so young.

**Ashley Mitchell** (1957 – 1964):

It might not quite have been “The History Boys” but a class with Robin Stallwood-Betts was about encouraging student discourse, enabling us to develop our own opinions, and more importantly think. I can see him now, standing with head on one side, clutching the side of his gown. Robin made History enjoyable. For me, Hendon County was not an enjoyable experience nor many of the teachers inspiring. Robin was an exception, and I regret not thanking him properly for his encouragement and motivation. Otherwise, I might have followed the path recommended by Mr Maynard Potts of “... seeking employment in the Police Force or Army”. Two unrelated Masters degrees and a successful entrepreneurial career taught me not to listen to perceived Authority and who was right!

**Elaine (Lana) Young, née Sherbourne**

(1957 – 1964):

I remember Mr Stallwood-Betts with great fondness and respect; he was the teacher who inculcated a love of History in me.

In the Sixth Form in 1962-4, he taught us how to make our own form of “shorthand” notes whilst he lectured - thus preparing us for University in an invaluable way, and which I continue to use today when note-taking. My interest in Eighteenth-Century Social History, which we studied with him as an A-level special subject, developed from his fascinating way of recounting the period. I still, today, continue to study it. He was a teacher whom I best remember for his quiet sense of humour and wry smile: a modest man with a wonderful way of relating to students, and earning our respect for his depth of knowledge and teaching skills.

**Mike Youngerwood** (1962 – 1969):

I was very sad to hear that Robin Stallwood-Betts had passed away a few years ago. I would say that he was one of two teachers who had the biggest influence on me during my student days in Hendon County.

To put matters in context, I did not have much luck with form teachers during my time in school ... Class 1 Miss Ward (Art), Class 2-5 inclusive Mr Edwards (Latin). Both were strict disciplinarians who you could certainly not approach to discuss anything mildly approaching anything personal - and don't forget who the headmaster was at that time!

Mr Stallwood-Betts was like a breath of fresh air. I would say he belonged to the new school of thought. In other words, he decided to try and make history interesting, which in itself was quite revolutionary. He taught pupils to think, to question and even disagree, which was unacceptable to most teachers at that time. And most important, he treated you as a human being, not just a name in the register. He kindled my interest in History, which I went on to study in LSE.

I wrote that he was one of two teachers who influenced me the most. The other teacher being Jack Driver. Everything I wrote about Mr Stallwood-Betts I can repeat about Jack Driver. He was the only teacher that called boys by their first name. I was Moik (in those days girls were addressed by their first names and boys by their surnames). He would enter the classroom and immediately throw his gown onto the table as if wearing it was a real hindrance. Then, with his strong Northern accent, he would teach French Language and Literature with a love and passion that knew no bounds.

Both teachers were highly respected and loved - something that was quite rare in those days! Even after so many years, I miss them.

**Ralph Haskell** (1957 – 1964):

Robin Stallwood-Betts was a deputy headmaster and a soft-spoken and pleasant person. There was a time when the school had difficulty in finding a suitable mathematics teacher, and he once told me that the best way of learning a subject was to teach it. He advised me to help fellow students with their difficulties. This I did, and it caused me to choose a career in academia.





It is with heartfelt regret that we report the following deaths. Our sincere condolences and deepest sympathy go to all families and friends, together with grateful thanks to all who have provided information. If you would like to add anything for inclusion in a future issue, please contact your editor.

**Mr Colin Lever** (1949 – 1957) passed away in November 2016 at the age of 78, after an 18-month battle with illness.

The following is taken from *The Actuary* magazine: Colin joined Bacon & Woodrow in 1960 from university. He qualified in 1965 and became an equity partner in 1971.



Colin specialised in investment consulting, then in its infancy. He published a memorable paper entitled the *Musings of a Scoreboard Operator*, which led

to the firm developing its measurement of investment performance service. He then spearheaded the development of more general investment consulting in the UK.

In 1981, Colin was elected Bacon & Woodrow's youngest senior partner and served until 1993. During that period the firm experienced rapid growth. Colin was also instrumental in developing the firm's international links and capabilities. He was an original thinker and highly respected by his many clients and others.

Colin was active in the National Association of Pension Funds and became chairman in 1985. This was a time of great change in the pensions world, with the introduction of personal pensions.

During this time, Colin also served on the mergers and takeovers panel, where his expertise was highly valued. On standing down as senior partner of Bacon & Woodrow, Colin continued to work in the partnership until retiring in 1999. He also remained a trustee of the Thalidomide Trust for a number of years.

In retirement, Colin was able to indulge his many and varied interests and, in particular, his love of flying. Colin was a wonderful family man and will be missed by his wife Ruth, their son and three daughters and their partners, and eight grandchildren.

**Michael Bekhor**, late of Totteridge, London.

**Mrs A Curtain**, late of Welwyn, Herts.

**Dr R F Neale**, late of Balerno, Lothian Region.

**Mrs I Kuklinska**, late of Hendon.

**Ronald Victor Maller** (1949 – 1955), late of Colchester, Essex.

**Margaret Kent, née Fabian** (1959 – 1966) died in August 2018.

**Geoffrey Valentine** (1942 - 1947) died in August 2018.

**Dave Osborne** (1942 - 1947) died in September 2018. Reg Beckley (1942 – 1948) – a long-standing friend of both – writes:

Firstly Dave Osborne ... an all-round athlete, he is recorded, in the 1947 school magazine, as taking 6 wickets for two runs in an inter-school match. Secondly Geoffrey Valentine ... he also had success as a cricketer for the school, and had a "hat-trick" of wins for the Old Hendonians Association Wilkinson Badminton cup, as recorded in the school magazines for 1951-53.

**Lavinia Street, née Chester** (1942 – 1947) died on 30<sup>th</sup> December 2018 aged 87. When she was a pupil at Hendon County, she met her future husband Walter Street. Her younger sister **Mary Avis, née Chester** (1945 – 1950) goes on to say: "They married in 1951 and were blessed with four sons. Wally died in 1999 after retiring from the Metropolitan Police as Chief Superintendent of the Hendon area. Vin coped with widowhood well but spent her last year in a residential home. We will all miss her."

**Michael Finer** (1958 – 1965) passed away in June 2015, just after his 68<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Michael's younger sister **Ros Nagler** (1961 – 1965) has sent in the following recollections:

"In your last issue, the picture of four Old Hendonians touring Oxford together brought back some very poignant memories for me. They were all classmates / friends of my brother Michael ... theirs was an exceptionally bright year, many pupils going on to distinguished careers. My brother, three years my



senior, had a great sense of humour, and one particular anecdote I recall concerns Michael's homework. His Chemistry teacher was Gertie Stranz, a very interesting and dedicated member of staff, who was also my Chemistry and form teacher. Michael was very good at science, and he always got top marks for his homework. He decided to test out how thoroughly she read through his work so, writing up a chemistry experiment conducted in class, he mentioned the pink elephants emerging from the test tube. He was given A grade, Excellent! My parents, both teachers, were not amused by his exploits!

I also remember Michael being tasked with looking after his 'little sister' when I started the school. He reluctantly accompanied me on the train from Edgware for the first week, abandoning me soon after whilst assuring my mother he was still journeying with me! Recollections of my 'solo' exploits included travelling up on the tube from Edgware to Hendon every morning with two boys who were classmates and, like me, really struggled with time-keeping. There were three bells sounded at school, probably about 9 a.m. I think, and within five minutes of each other. By the third bell you had to be in the assembly hall, which on Wednesday was the Jewish assembly downstairs and took that bit longer to reach. If you didn't make it by that bell, you were officially late and had to see the lovely Mr Morris – I think he was the Deputy Head – with your excuses. My friends and I could often be seen physically running the last few yards to school, and one memorable day one was actually sick on arrival!"

*[The four Old Hendonians, Ken Sheringham and his friends, are featured again on page 3 – Ed.]*

**Richard John Pearce** (1982 – 1989) died suddenly and tragically on February 19, 2018 at the age of 46. His parents, Sheila and Geoffrey Pearce, go on to say: "He collapsed as he reached home following his usual ten-minute morning run, before taking his two children to primary school. The extended post-mortem could find no cause and so the coroner gave a rare 'diagnosis of exclusion' of sudden arrhythmic death syndrome (SADS). He leaves Rona, his loving partner of 22 years, and their two children: Rhea at 11 and Finlay at 9 years of age when he died.



Richard attended Sunnyfields Infant School and St Mary's Junior School in Hendon before going on to Hendon School in 1982. He always said that his time there was an education for life. He especially loved being involved with the musical activities under Charles Western, the former Head of Music. He therefore had the

opportunity throughout his years at Hendon School of being chosen to perform in operas performed by the English National Opera at the Coliseum Theatre. These included three seasons of Puccini's *La Bohème* (in

which his family joked that he was gradually promoted from 'street urchin' in his first season to a richer 'higher ranking' boy in later productions, with the appropriate grander costumes!) He was also in the televised production of Benjamin Britten's *Gloriana* and the X-rated *Le Grand Macabre* by Ligeti (with appropriate chaperoning when backstage, to prevent young eyes seeing any inappropriate scenes!). He also had the luxury of going to Plymouth for a week when the ENO took the production of *La Bohème* on tour. In addition, he greatly enjoyed being in the Hendon School Windband, as he played the clarinet.

Richard worked hard and enjoyed seven happy years at Hendon School, finishing with A-levels in economics, maths and geography. He determined to go to Cambridge, and was successful in his application to go to St Catharine's College to read economics. He loved his years at Cambridge, making new friendships and enjoying several sports from table tennis to badminton to archery, as well as developing interests in astronomy and photography, including developing his photos.

From teenage days he loved travelling. At 17 he was thrilled to accompany his grandmother to Australia to see relatives. During his college years and in his 20s and 30s, Richard was an adventurous traveller, going with friends on two inter-railing trips, also tracking, canoeing, walking and cycling holidays, as well as visiting Peru, Morocco, India, Everest base camp and climbing Kilimanjaro.

Following Cambridge, Richard worked for the Japanese Norinchukin Bank in London, and loved having the chance to travel to Japan, regaling his family with the experience of colleagues there introducing him to the wonders of karaoke. He then worked for Morgan Stanley as an equity trader, and in 1996 was transferred to the German office in Frankfurt for 18 months. As he had only studied German to O-level, he worked incredibly hard to improve his spoken and written standard of German and passed his German Stock Exchange exam, involving very specific and technical vocabulary, after only six months. Only then did his boss tell him that he was the first to pass this exam of all the previous people transferred from the London office!

During his early weeks in Frankfurt he met Rona, and when he left to come back to London after 18 months, she travelled to and fro to see him until she was able to transfer her job to London in 1999. They settled in Highgate, an area which Richard loved, and have lived there ever since.

In 2001 he was made redundant, a year after he and Rona had bought a house in Highgate. He therefore devoted his time, while looking for work, to working on the house and garden, taking a course on how to construct decking, and volunteering with Heath Hands on Hampstead Heath. After almost a year he obtained a job with the French Bank BNP, and in 2007 he went to

work for the London Clearing House and was a director there when he died.

Whatever he undertook, Richard always wanted to do his best. He always believed in doing things properly and having a clear plan of what he wanted to achieve. This also applied to his love of running, which he began in his 30s. He trained with a coach, and began running marathons both here and abroad until a few years ago, as well as numerous half marathons. He found this hobby a release from the stresses of life.

He also relaxed by baking and enjoyed bread-making courses, as well as home cooking.

He was a loving, hands-on and devoted family man, and once Rhea and Finlay came along, he encouraged them

in the activities he enjoyed – walking, cycling, gardening and swimming. They had holidays in the UK and abroad, and always with activities to enjoy. He was also a devoted son to his parents who still live in Hendon, and who served on Hendon School's Parents' Committee during Richard's time at the school. He always valued the many friends he made throughout his life, and enjoyed keeping in regular touch whenever possible.

Richard's untimely death is a great loss to many – he is mourned by a very close, loving family, his relatives, many dear friends and also work colleagues – as demonstrated by all the moving and heartfelt tributes his family have received."



## FROM THE SCHOOL ARCHIVIST

Grateful thanks are due to: **Philip Churcher** for a collection of staff photographs from the late 1940s and early 1950s; **Clive Winton** for newspaper cuttings and other material relating to plans to turn the school comprehensive in the late 1960s; **David Ellis** for files and records relating to various reunions; and all those who have made such valuable and worthwhile contributions to this magazine.

These valuable donations to the school's archives are greatly appreciated.

*Alan Freedman*

Please send all future communications to:

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# HENDON SCHOOL



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## THE OLD HENDONIAN

**== INCORPORATING ==**

**HENDON, HENDON COUNTY GRAMMAR, ST DAVID'S COUNTY SECONDARY,  
BRENT MODERN AND BARNFIELD SECONDARY SCHOOLS**

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letters: care of the School

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