

# THE OLD HENDONIAN ◆ 2020 ◆



## ISSUE NUMBER TWENTY-NINE

*Dear Old Hendonians and Friends,*



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**T**he effects of the Covid-19 pandemic – not only here in the UK, but the whole world over – have been truly far-reaching, and have changed life as we know it in so many ways which few, if any, of us could have imagined only at the beginning of this year.

As I write, the pandemic is on the wane in this part of the world, but many restrictions remain in place, and we are advised to “stay alert” to “protect the NHS” and minimise the possible risk of a second wave later in the year. I truly hope that you have all been staying safe and well up till now. My deepest sympathies and sincere condolences go to any of you who have been unfortunate enough to lose loved ones to the disease. Sadly, the obituary section already includes one Old Hendonian who succumbed to it.

For a few weeks, under lockdown, we all had to stay at home much more, and restrict who we saw. Perhaps like me, some of you have since chosen to carry on doing so, if only to be on the safe side. Perhaps like me, many of you have found yourselves with more time on your hands. So I am hoping that the arrival of this issue, with most of the usual features (more about that later) and the hopefully pleasant memories they will engender, will be even more welcome than in other years.

I had asked for any material for inclusion in this issue to be with me by the end of March, although there are one or two late additions to the obituary section. Apart from that, you won't find any mention in the rest of the magazine of the pandemic or how it has affected people's

lives or the school, which has been largely closed since the middle of March and is unlikely to reopen fully until September at the very earliest. The resultant disruption to the lives of the current students – especially those studying for GCSEs and A-levels – is hard to fathom, especially when we remember that the school managed to keep going even during the war years and through the outbreak of the “Spanish flu” a century ago.

No doubt we will be hearing much more about the pandemic in the months ahead, and with an eye on next year’s issue of the magazine I invite you to let me know about your experiences. Opinions and contributions from current and former members of the medical profession and health workers would be especially welcome.

It was just as well that a couple of notable reunions were organised for last year – the first general reunion to be held at the school for a while, which I was privileged to help organise, and a very successful reunion of the Class of 1957 – 1964, which I was also privileged to attend. You’ll find reports of both in this issue.

In fact, there has been no shortage of quality material for me to include. To take just a few examples: two “old boys” from very different eras have provided welcome memories of their time at the school; Miriam Webber’s and Ashleigh Brilliant’s output continue to go from strength to strength; and my old friend and classmate, David Ellis, has given us some fascinating insights into his experiences of the world of astronomy.

Happily, this has made up for the absence of some regular features you’d usually expect to see. There is no letter from the Headteacher, Rhona Povey, because she has had to take an extended break from her duties for health reasons. I know you will want to join me in wishing her a speedy and complete recovery, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank her for all her valued help and support in organising the school reunion. As I am sure you will understand, the acting Headteacher has been unavoidably preoccupied with the unprecedented challenges and demands which have come his way since the onset of the pandemic. Because the school has been closed, there are no contributions from any current students either. For the same reason, I’ve been unable to check some people’s years of attendance at the school with the accuracy I’d have wished for. Lastly, space restrictions have precluded a “From the Archives” section on this occasion.

My grateful thanks, as ever, go to Annette Bruce and David Eadon for their regular contributions, and to David as well as Kemuel Solomon for acting as proof-readers.

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.

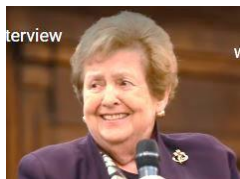
With sincere best wishes to you all,



**Alan Freedman – Editor**

## NEWS FROM OLD HENDONIANS

Qualifying in medicine at the University of Birmingham, **Dr Ann Dora Black, née Braham**, who joined Hendon County in 1946 at the age of 14, went on to train in psychiatry at the Institute of Psychiatry and Maudsley Hospital, London. Dr Dora Black specialised in child and adolescent psychiatry, and worked in several child and adolescent psychiatric clinics and hospitals part-time whilst bringing up three children, before being appointed to a full-time post as consultant child and adolescent psychiatrist and Head of Department of child and adolescent psychiatry at the



university hospital, the Royal Free Hospital in London. After retiring from the Royal Free Hospital, Dora founded the Traumatic Stress NHS Clinic, in central London, for psychologically

traumatized children, and became its first director. Since retiring from NHS clinical practice in 1997, she went on to advise the courts of law in matters pertaining to children, acting as expert witness in cases which involved contested contact or residence, personal injury, or medical, educational and social service negligence concerning children and adolescents. Dora has particular expertise in cases involving bereavement, post-traumatic stress disorder in children, and where children have witnessed or been affected by intra-familial violence, especially when one parent kills the other. Dora relinquished her licence to practise in November, 2014 and is now fully retired.

**David Lister** (1960 – 1967) writes:

Some of your older readers will remember that Hendon County fielded a team for Transworld Top of the Form. We were the English team in a tournament with three teams from Britain and three from Australia. I was the captain, and the other team members were Jenni Goldman, Jonathan Shapiro and a first-year girl whose name escapes me. (I am 70!) We were the best British performers, and played the team from Melbourne in the final. Unfortunately, our excellent recall skills then deserted us and we were beaten. I believe that I opened some sort of trans-world cable at the start of recording. Following our partial success, we were taken for a slap-up lunch at the Hendon Hall Hotel. I also remember going to the BBC studios to see a rehearsal for Top of the Pops. Mr Betts nominated me to be captain because of my debating skills, but I wasn't asked to make a speech in the trans-world format.

A few years earlier, quite a few pupils from my year were contestants on Junior Criss Cross Quiz – and my friend, the late Bernie Glicksman, was champion for many weeks.

**Yen Yee Chong** (1972 – 1979) writes:

After doing many things in different parts of the world, and self-employed projects, I felt the calling to treat people with Shiatsu massage and Traditional Chinese Medical (TCM) therapy. I specialize in musculo-skeletal (MSK) body aches, injuries, joints and pains. I first trained in acupuncture in Malaysia in 2002, then took my Shiatsu Certificate of Practice in 2003. After working TCM and Shiatsu in Charing Cross Hospital and University College Hospital London, I now work in MB Harley Street Centre, London, as well as Stanmore Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital, and do house and office visits treating MSK injuries and body pains. I enjoy my TCM medical work much more nowadays. The Stroke Association also approve of my methods, and gave me a stand to work at their National Conference last December.

Here (with his permission) is a photo of me working on a patient at the UK Stroke Forum Conference in December 2018.

He had not managed to raise his arm fully in two and a half years - so I applied big pressure on his acupoints to raise it vertically again!



I favour a drugs-free healing path for my patients. I often advise them to take walks in city parks and forests, to breathe in some natural air and the beauty of flowers and birdsong to improve physical and mental health. Natural green space mentally “cleanses” your mind after unpleasant or stressful events. Instead of moping and taking the doctor's powerful drugs, take wholesome “forest bathing”. In 1980s Japan, *shinrin yoku* (“forest bathing”) promoted taking a relaxing walk in woodland. It's part of preventive health care.

Healing-proven benefits of *shinrin yoku* relaxation include:

- Better auto-immune system
- Reduced blood pressure
- Increased ability to focus mentally
- Accelerated recovery from surgery or illness
- Increased energy levels
- Improved sleep patterns.

Listen to me: It's good for you, but listen to your body!

[Yen has his own website <http://www.yenshiatsu.com/> where you can find plenty more information – worth a visit, perhaps, if you are suffering from aches and pains! – Ed.]

**James Ward** (c.1998 – 2003) was in the news at the very end of 2019, when named as replacement for the tennis star Andy Murray in the Great Britain Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) Cup team, after Murray had to pull out due to a pelvic injury. Earlier in the year, he made an emotional return to compete at Wimbledon after knee surgery saved his playing career. Once the second highest-ranked British player, James was a member of the team that won the 2015 Davis Cup title, following on from his exploits mentioned in the 2014 issue of the *Old Hendonian*.



**Reg Beckley (1942–1948)** again excelled himself last summer – this time in his portrayal of the Archbishop in Shakespeare’s *Richard III* for the Open Air Theatre on Brownsea Island. He thinks it will probably be his only open air theatre experience. Here is a picture of Reg at the end of one of the productions:



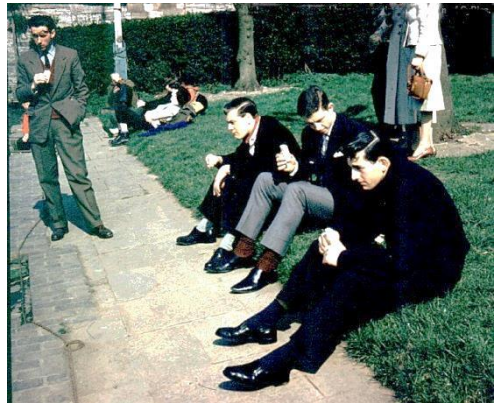
And here he is with the rest of the cast, second from right in the back row:



In early 2020, Reg took on a couple of cameo roles in a production of *Romeo and Juliet*.

On a separate occasion, Reg was looking at a report on the website of Arsenal football club of their old goalkeeper, Bob Wilson. The article mentioned that the late Dennis Roach – who passed away in May 2019 – was a close friend, and the reason why Bob moved to Christchurch when he retired. Dennis used to captain Barnet football club as a centre-half in the 1960s. He went on to become a football agent, representing such famous names as Terry Venables, Paul Gascoigne, Glenn Hoddle, and Trevor Francis. Whilst known as somewhat controversial, it is probably fair to say he was also something of a pioneer, playing a key part in helping to promote the superstar status of the modern professional footballer.

You may be wondering what all of this has to do with Reg ... well, Dennis and some of his “Teddy Boy” friends came with him on a tour in Easter 1960 to bolster his Old Hendonians football squad, as recorded in the pictures below – Dennis is seated far left in the first, and is second from left in the other.



Reg goes on to say that he last met Dennis at the Elstree Way in 1967 when he was a carpet salesman, and caught a glimpse of him near Bournemouth many years later.

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

I was very pleased to receive the latest edition of the *Old Hendonian*, which brought back many happy memories of my time at the school.

The Staff Photo 1947/48 has particular resonance for me, because nearly all the staff in it were still there when I came to the school and for several years after. The person who had most long-term impact on me was the Headmaster, Mr Potts, because he suggested in my 5<sup>th</sup> Form Testimonial that I should resume studying Latin so that I could try for Oxford. This I did, and succeeded in being offered a place at Balliol College. Other teachers who were important for me during my time at the school were Mr Betts for History, Miss Williams for Maths, Mrs Moss for Geography, and especially Mr MacDonald for Economics in the sixth form. His practical approach to the subject set me on a career path that eventually led to my becoming Chairman of the Society of Business Economists from 1985 to 1989. I also remember Mr Gallimore – who took us for French in my first year – and Mr Nelson, who was my form master for four years from forms 2L through to 5L.



The photo of Mr Fowler with the school as it was in the late forties brought back other memories. The tops of the semi-underground air raid shelters to the right of the photo used to be the site of “battles” for supremacy during the first days of the autumn term between many of the new first year boys and their counterparts in the second year. This was stopped after a few years when the protective earth banks at the playing field ends, which can just be seen in the photo, were taken away so that the cricket field boundary could be extended. This left a drop off the end of the shelters of at least six feet, which was deemed to be too dangerous. The beginning of that term also saw many of us playing conkers around the school, given that we had plenty of horse-chestnut trees to supply us with the raw material. Of course, all this was long before Health & Safety legislation put a stop to such naughtiness!

Later on (1953-55), I was a founder and Secretary of the school Model Aircraft Club, which made good use of our very large playing field, although some of the planes ended up stuck in the trees! At one time a quarter of all the boys in the school were members, although there were no girl members. This is not surprising, given that all the boys did at least one year of woodwork, while all the girls had to do domestic science. There was no gender equality in those days.

Here is a photo of David and his younger daughter Mandy in Guernsey last summer, celebrating her twentieth wedding anniversary.



**John Barnett FRICS** (1950 – 1955) writes:

“I have been a regular tennis player for the last 40 years. Also, about 20 years ago, I was selected to represent Hertfordshire, and then became captain in the ascending five-year age groups in the over-70s and the over-75s. Our team won the GB national title on four occasions, and with my club Harpenden, we also won the national club title on four occasions.

In 2014, I won the national Wimbledon 75s doubles with my partner. And in 2019, I won both the national 80s indoor and the national clay titles. Last year was my *annus mirabilis*, as I was ranked number 3 in the UK at singles and number 1 at doubles in the over-80s age group, and was chosen with three others to represent Team GB in that capacity at the International Tennis Federation Super Seniors World Championships in Croatia in September, where we came eighth out of 17 countries. I won two doubles and lost one singles match. Your readers will hopefully be familiar with the names of both Roger Taylor and Mark Cox, who both played in the GB 75 team in Croatia – so I’m thrilled to be bracketed with such quality players!

In Budapest last July, I represented GB Maccabi at the European Maccabi games, and was part of the doubles pair that won the over-65s event. I am still ranked number 12 in the world over-80s in the doubles, and I look forward to many years of being fit and able to continue playing, and possibly adding to my one international cap.” John is pictured here on the right.



In the meantime, also in September last year, John's old friend and schoolmate **Roger Bruck** (1950 – 1957) ran for Team GB in the M80 section of the European Masters Athletics Championships in Venice. He is the one wearing sunglasses in this picture.



In the end, Team GB came second to the Germans. As Roger commented: “This was not a real surprise, as the Germans had dominated the sprints in older ages. But we rejoiced in our ‘silver’ and celebrated a British record with champagne after the presentation ceremony.”

Reminiscing about his own sporting exploits at school, **Leslie Hyman** (1949 – 1956) writes:

I was captain of Purple athletics. I specialised in long jump and the 220, in which I was unbeaten at school and at Middlesex area meetings at Parliament Hill ... (but) I could not beat Roger Bruck over 100.

It is great to see John and Roger looking in such terrific shape, and as shining examples of sporting achievements in later life.

**Peter Jerram** (1944 – 1949) speaks very highly of last year's *Old Hendonian*. He goes on to write:

I was taught by 28 of the 29 teachers in the (staff 1947/48) photograph on page 13.

I didn't go to university as my dear old Dad, who left school at 14 in 1909, was not prepared to finance further studies, especially as his own father died when my father was 14, leaving him (my father) to help his mother bring up his five younger siblings and himself! I did have a very interesting career, firstly in the NHS, and then with the British Airways Medical Services. My three children are all university graduates.

After I lost my dear wife of 53 years in 2016, I joined the local branch of the “University of the Third Age” which (in Bracknell) has 600 members and around 70 interest groups. A wonderful organisation!

The contribution from our unnamed correspondent in last year's issue aroused considerable interest from some of the visitors to the July 2019 reunion, including **Beryl Lester, née Rosenthal** (1947 – 1953) and **Philip Churcher** (1946 – 1954). Sadly, Ron Hooker had passed away earlier in the year – see later in the Obituary section. Philip provided this photo of a small group seated on the stairs at the front of the school.



Philip, Beryl and their old classmates who came to the reunion were able to name all but one as follows:

Boys at back – unknown, Ron Hooker, Geoff Barnes, Ken Robson

Girls in front – Beryl Rosenthal, Marguerite Dane, Carol Goodman.

Philip also provided this photo of Form 5L in 1951-52, showing Beryl second from right in the front row.

Seated in front of Mr Driver is **Renée Stroh née Zell** (1947 – 1954), who was also at the reunion.



**Ken Sheringham** has been back in touch, with “another candidate for the *Old Hendonian* Rogues' Gallery” as he puts it, in the shape of the picture below. He is on the far right, enjoying a meal with his old classmates from 1958 to 1965 – **Dick Coldwell** seated opposite and **Grant Kriteman** seated next to him, all “holding back the years, holding in the stomachs – with mixed success, evidently.”



# POET'S CORNER

## FROM MIRIAM WEBBER ...

### THE SPYDER

*(Inspired by William Blake)*

Spyder, spyder, in the night -  
Gosh, you gave me such a fright!  
What spirit could think up and plan  
a creature so unloved by man?

In some dark corner, there you hide  
in silence, poised and beady-eyed  
watching your web for bugs and flies  
to pounce and catch them by surprise.

What master craftsman, with what art  
could paint in black both head and heart  
then mould and shape with skilful hand  
eight long black legs on which to stand?

Small monster – seeing you appear  
the world cannot contain my fear;  
hairs stand up like a porcupine  
and shivers run along my spine.

The angels sympathize and cry  
at my distress and justify  
the terror that I feel, to see  
this hideous thing approaching me.

Spyder, spyder, what a fright -  
I'll keep my slippers on tonight  
in case you creep out from your lair  
and try to catch *me* unaware!



### CLASS 1 – 1941

My teacher,  
plump motherly  
maker of magic,  
took a new stick of chalk  
and with a long ruler  
drew neat precise lines  
on the blackboard;  
bars between which she created  
and released a flock of white letters  
whose beautiful cursive wings  
undulated gently as they soared,  
wings that lifted me  
to hover in wonder  
at this new craft  
as I began copying their shapes  
into my notebook,  
slowly, carefully,  
A a, B b, C c ....



### SUMMING UP LIFE

A teacher of art,  
brushes aside a colourful infancy  
discards the abstract,  
sweeps the palette clean,  
puts things in perspective,  
sketches the firm lines of his belief  
and by noting highlights  
draws his own conclusions.

A teacher of mathematics  
finds it easy to sum up his life,  
multiplying the joys of marriage  
by the division of responsibility,  
adding the equal distribution of love,  
subtracting the occasional sorrows,  
presenting his own angle, to prove  
*quod erat demonstrandum*.



**Miriam Webber, née Retkin**  
(1945 – 1950)

*[Miriam's fantastic poem-writing output continues unabated. The first two of these poems have been published – and the third is, surely, similarly worthy – Ed.]*



I entered Hendon County School in January 1939, and I was greeted by the then headmaster Mr J. G. Barr, who had in fact been Head from the opening of the school in 1914. After two terms we reached September 1939. War was declared and I was evacuated to Norfolk, but I came back to Hendon at the end of the year, when the “phoney war” – as it was then known – made it seem safe to return.

During 1940, there was an interregnum when the school was run by the deputy head, Miss Wilson, who had to deal with the problem of staff being called upon to cope during frequent air raids, particularly in the autumn term, and adapt when more pupils were once again evacuated. Standards during this time generally deteriorated.

Then, like an avenging angel, Mr E. W. Maynard Potts appeared on the scene – and, within a term, things were back to normal, apart from the fact that there was a war on!

From 1940, we had to cope with possible air raids. These were first dealt with by the whole school descending to the basement. It took some time to organise proper lessons under these circumstances, so packs of playing cards were very much in evidence. That was where I learned to play “Solo.”



*Derek at 15*

Finally, things became more organised and we carried on as normal, although parents of children taking university entrance exams were asked to agree in writing that their offspring should remain at their desks and continue with the exam in the event of an air raid warning being in progress.

Fortunately, Hendon did not suffer as badly as many other parts of London, although there was still plenty of noise from anti-aircraft guns. In fact, there was always competition on the way to school in the morning as to who could find the largest piece of shrapnel from the previous night's bombardment.

This continued, albeit to a lesser degree, for the rest of the war, with unmanned aircraft, doodlebugs, V2 rockets and incendiary bomb raids, which made it necessary to introduce “fire watching.” This involved staff and fifth form pupils.

Two or three pupils and a member of staff would stay overnight in one of the air raid shelters, making regular checks around the buildings – especially the roof areas – for any sign of trouble. For this, a pupil under 17 would be paid 1s 3d (7p) per night. For pupils 17 and over, this increased to 1s 10½d (9p).



In spite of all this, we enjoyed a normal education thanks largely to Mr Potts and his staff, with sports, games and other extra-mural activities. The Whitlock Trophy was still hotly contested to decide the best house, although we disparagingly renamed it the Hitler Trophy, as he was assumed to have presented it at the Olympic games in Berlin in the 1930s.

There were also stage productions. I became involved in these as part of a team run by Mr Hopper, building scenery and special effects. I particularly remember when we did *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in 1944. Following the performance, I returned to Leicester Square from Hendon Central on the tube, carrying a life-size ass's head which had been used to transform Bottom!

The following year, 1945, we put on the *Barretts of Wimpole Street*. This is the story of the love of Robert Browning for Elizabeth Barrett. The Head Boy played the hero, Mr Browning, and the deputy Head Boy played Mr Barrett. The dress rehearsal was set for May 5<sup>th</sup>, and friends and relations had been invited to come and watch it. At the interval, Mr Potts came to the front of the stage to announce that the Germans had surrendered and the European war was now over. Virtually the entire audience left the hall to celebrate. When we had finished, we felt that we too should celebrate with some fireworks, and so Mr Barrett and Mr Browning went off to the chemistry lab to make some! The backroom team, including me, went out into the field to find a suitable place to let them off. We looked back at the school in time to see a flame shoot the whole way up the side of the school. They had been mixing what they assumed to be suitable chemicals in a pestle and mortar. Luckily, no damage was done apart from a singed eyebrow or two ... and in the general air of *bonhomie* following the ensuing enquiry, Mr Potts' only comment on the incident was that "it was a rather silly thing to do!"



*Derek at 90*

July 1945 saw the end of my time at Hendon. It was an education spanning the whole of World War II, but in spite of the vicissitudes of life in wartime Britain, I felt I received a first class education from a staff led by the redoubtable Mr Maynard Potts.

I particularly remember:

- Mr Nelson taught history, and dictated copious quantities of information for us to record
- Mr Hopper, applied maths, with whom I also worked on scenery for the school plays
- Miss Davies, who unsuccessfully tried to teach me Latin in the first and second years when I was away for a lot of the time on my two spells of evacuation – but who I came to know much better as a sixth form teacher
- lastly, Mr Potts himself, who was a teacher of higher maths which he considered to be an art form.

**Derek Annas (1939 – 1945)**



I started at Hendon County Grammar School in 1963. That year, I was in the school choir that sang at the Royal Albert Hall the day JFK was shot and killed in Dallas (22<sup>nd</sup> November 1963). Among my form teachers were Catherine Golden (1C and 2B – fiery but friendly Irish [?] woman teaching English) and Tony Bennett (3B to 5B – French teacher). I played football and basketball for the school throughout my seven years – the great triumph being the 1<sup>st</sup> XI football win over Orange Hill County in the Middlesex(?) Cup in our last year – up to then we had always lost to them – but we did not reach the final. In 1969/70 I was the Head Boy, and for a short while my name was on the Honours Board outside the Hall and Headmaster’s room – it was then politically correctly painted over if I remember right. Thanks to EWMP’s good contacts, I won a place at Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, to study Natural Sciences, where I graduated as a geologist and joined BP.



Through the School Swiss Holiday in 1967, and the Scandinavian Holidays in 1968 and 1970, I became a good personal friend of Robin Fogg (Maths teacher who died perhaps five to seven years ago while living in Turkey), Ivor Chapman (Geography), Robin Stallwood-Betts and Gertrude Stranz (at first sight a fearsome

lady, but with a heart of gold and an amazing life and a sad end through a long debilitating illness). These four in particular were truly great teachers, all with an aim to get “a bit of culture” into me! On one trip to Norway, I remember Robin S-B debating with the (in-)famous Peter Mandelson who was on the trip. Other inspiring teachers who spring to mind are Steve Dresner (Physics), Eddie Oatley (Physics), Doris Kay (French), Brian Haynes (PE), Brian Morgan (Technology Metalwork and Woodwork), Jack Driver (the Yorkshireman who laughed at the French pronunciation of us southerners), and Jim Morris (Deputy Head). There was also a biology teacher called Mrs Hawthorne. I see other faces, but cannot remember their names. Robin Fogg was also a driving force behind several plays, and the especially famous Staff revue of 1968. Together with RSB, he also had responsibility for producing the complicated lesson timetable each year – which was then copied and put up on several large notice boards for all to study.

I remember the start to each day, where we were divided into “Christian” and “Jewish” assemblies that were joined together for notices / announcements – and the year an insult to the Headmaster was written in creosote on the school playing field in front of the main hall windows – I think I still have a picture of that somewhere – best forgotten.

I also remember that in the mid-60’s we still had the Tuck-shop in the cellar, where they sold disgracefully sweet pastries that ruined our teeth and probably our health as well. It was here that we collected our milk cartons (originally bottles) each morning at around eleven o’clock.



*Boys, from left to right: Kenny ?, Phil Spencer, Anthony Fiddleman(?), Barry Bines, Tony Chinnery, Conrad Myers, John Needleman, John Hughes, Lennard ?, Paul ?, ?, ?, Charles Jourdan, Stephen Becker, Kevin Brice, Malcolm Shine(?), Joey Vandell*

The North playground was where the boys played football, and the South Playground was for the girls' netball. One of my less merited achievements was to kick a football through the window of the male staff room (yes, I remember they segregated the staff!) while playing in the North Playground.

The Main Hall was used for the trampoline / gymnastics training. Brian Haynes, the PE teacher, was very good on the trampoline. The grass-covered playing field at the school was divided into a hockey pitch for the girls and a football pitch for the boys in the winter. In the summer, there was a 400yds athletics track. A lot of our football and cricket was played at the Pursley Road sports ground in Mill Hill. This meant being bussed from the school. The sports ground still had the British Railways branch line to Edgware on its southern boundary. I remember seeing one of the last goods trains passing while we played football around 1964.

In my day, it was still compulsory to wear a school cap outside of school when in uniform. Being caught without it could lead to a detention and the writing of lines after school (very old school). Robin Fogg said it was a clear strategy – let the pupils get irritated over small things like caps and they would not worry about other matters – this was pre-1968.

Many of the first year boys still wore short trousers – even in the deep mid-winter. Rain coats were heavy gabardine, which soaked up the water and made them even heavier.

Amongst fellow students in my year were Denise Epstein, Barbara Davies, Richard Bober (good cross country runner), Michael Lerner, Brian Franks, Jonny Cowan, Dave Barber, Joey Varnell, Charles Epie, Barry Bines, Kevin Brice, Tony Chinnery, Marion Clyde, Steven Cusack (who moved from the school ca. 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> Form?), David Flinter(?), Philip Spencer, John Hughes, John Needleman, Stephen Becker, Barry Myers(?), Steven Long, Dennis Sugarman, Ken Fletcher, Janet Leeds. I am circled in the class photos above.



I have good memories from those seven years – the tight discipline meant that we made progress – but probably not everyone experienced school life in the same positive way. I can still see EWMP striding along the corridor – a man with a mission.

## *Science, Astronomy and Hendon School*

**H**aving gained an understanding of science in the 1960s/70s at Hendon School, it was some four decades later that I found myself visiting the Mill Hill Observatory as an astronomy student. You may yourselves have seen or visited the green-topped dome buildings as you drive north along the Watford Way (A41) into Mill Hill.

The School provided me with A levels in Physics, Chemistry and Maths, and then I went to University to study and practise law. However, the seeds of how our incredible universe started and works were laid in those A level (and earlier) science lessons with teachers such as Miss Stranz (Chemistry), Mr Dresner and Mr Oatley (Physics) and a string of Maths teachers from Mr Clark to Mrs Blackstaffe, as well as a grounding in economics with Mr Brown.

In those days, science didn't yet capture advances in astronomy; particle, quantum and relativity theories – computers were just starting, NASA had just landed a man on the moon, and chemistry at school was more about mixing reagents rather than advances in medicine and the world of new substances from plastics to graphene.

I have recently had a wonderful few years studying for a Certificate of Astronomy at University College London, which now operates the Mill Hill Observatory and allows students and the public to gaze heavenwards within our own solar system, as well as out to a range of galaxies, clusters and nebulae.

With what I have learnt, I have been able to give classes on what it would be like, perhaps one day in the future, to go on a cruise through our Solar System and then out to explore the next system – around Proxima and Alpha Centauri, and then beyond to new worlds or “exo-planets”. Your magazine editor, Alan, a school friend of mine from 50 years ago, kindly invited me to share some of the material that I have used in talks at the Kensington Science Museum, and then at the Belsize Park University of the Third Age (U3A), where you can visit and learn about a range of science and other topics.

Here we go then, with a brief glimpse of the “exo-planets” that lie outside our own solar system, and across other suns and stars that dot this incredible universe. By the way, the more I have learnt about science and its discoveries and the continuing puzzle of how the universe (or the multiverse), the Big Bang and our own incredible planet Earth have come into existence, the more it looks like a wondrous miracle that we need to protect, develop, and perhaps one day we will journey away from and be able to visit other worlds.

# “SCIENCE ON A SPHERE” AT THE LONDON SCIENCE MUSEUM ... REACHING OUTSIDE OUR SOLAR SYSTEM TO FIND EXO-PLANETS AND EXO-MOONS – A “VIRTUAL” TOUR TO DISTANT PARTS OF THE MILKY WAY GALAXY

It was a great pleasure over the summer in 2019 to join other volunteers in the Exploring Space gallery and share the experience of seeing the wonderful “Science on a Sphere” show images, not only of planets in our own solar system, but to give an idea of what we have learnt about more distant worlds in other stellar systems. Here are a few of the ideas we explored, and hope to do so further in the months ahead ...



*Science on a Sphere – projection of planet Earth*

## WHERE ARE WE TODAY?

Since we reached the Moon 50 years ago, the focus has been on exploring our solar system and making better telescopes to see what lies outside.

In the last 25 years, interest has also grown in the planets, moons and sun systems that lie beyond our solar system, and our knowledge about these strange worlds has increased considerably.

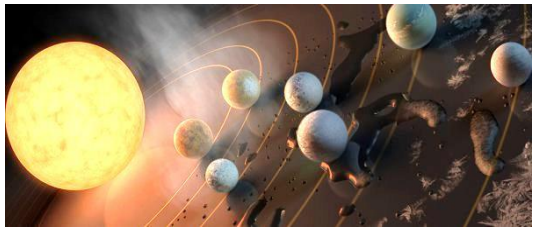
“Science on a Sphere” in the Exploring Space gallery allows us to visualise what it is like on these distant exo-planets in other sun systems, as well as nearer to home on planets in our own Solar System. The challenge in actually reaching the exo-planets is that the distances are so great. It has taken Voyagers 1 and 2 40+ years to reach the edges of our own Solar System – the Kuiper Belt and the Heliopause, out to where Pluto, Ceres and Makemake lie and beyond – around 150

Astronomical Units; 0.002 Light Years or 14 billion miles.

One of the biggest questions is whether any form of life, from plants to simple organisms to animals to intelligent beings, could be out there. We can send signals and search with our telescopes – SETI, Voyager and even our satellite broadcasts, that have been sending signals into space for 50 years, may reach these distant planetary systems.

Now we know quite a bit about other parts of our Milky Way Galaxy and of our universe – we can estimate that there are 300 billion stars alone in the Milky Way, and probably a similar number of exo-planets.

Many stars will have many planets, and many planets will have many moons. We think that this will be true generally in the Universe and in our own little bit, the Milky Way.



*Illustration of the Trappist system with its star and orbiting exo-planets*

## HISTORY OF SEARCHING FOR PLANETS

In ancient times, we searched the heavens with eyesight alone.

Then, in the 15<sup>th</sup> century, came the invention of the telescope and the work of Galileo in identifying the planet Jupiter, its moons, and the transit of Venus. In the last 50 years, we have been able to use radio, X-ray and infra-red astronomy, and now we can pick up gravitational waves.

The Science Museum’s “Space and Science on a Sphere” enables us to present, visually, images obtained by these sophisticated telescopes and astronomical techniques.

We can send fantastic telescopes into space – Kepler, Hubble – soon we hope the even more

spectacular James Webb telescope will be launched – not as big as those here on earth, but with much clearer observation outside of our atmosphere. What can we see? These are very tiny objects a long way away, but we can detect wobbles due to gravity and blips of light and energy due to transits. Today, we can pick up small changes in the gravitational pull with planets and suns – we have learnt a great deal about gravity since the days of Kepler and Newton. Once we know that there could be a planet circling a sun or star, we can look for very small changes in the light-emitted transits.



*Hubble Space Telescope*

### **TECHNOLOGY AND DISTANCES**

Today, even within our own solar system, it can take several years for probes to reach the distant gas and ice giants, with several revolutions of nearer planets needed to increase the satellite velocity. Now new thinking is taking place to develop rockets that will travel much faster and much further, taking 20 years to get to the next star system – the nearest being Alpha Centauri and Proxima Centauri – with solar energy and sails; with nuclear engines and mini-explosions.

### **WHAT WILL WE FIND AND CAN WE GET THERE?**

Strange new worlds – some all of ice, water, or hot Gas Giants – some much closer to their suns than in our solar system.

The effects of “tidal locking” (a bit like the way one side of the moon always faces the earth) mean

that some planets will only ever face their sun on one side and not spin round – this will mean that the other side is much colder, creating unusual atmospheric and weather patterns which we are now just starting to understand and model.

Lots of dangers and challenges, then – perhaps for the next many years it will be with unmanned crafts – computers and robots; but Humankind will search out and explore as it seems to be in our nature. Perhaps, one or more Hendon School students today or in the future or their descendants will be part of this exciting exploration.



*Comparison of Earth and the nearest Exo-Planet – Proxima b – 4.5 light years away*



*What it may look like on the surface of Proxima b*

*Note: Thanks to the Science Museum, NASA and other sources for the images included from public websites and the opportunity to learn more about our planet and the universe.*

**David Ellis (1968 – 1975)**

*[Although the Science Museum is closed at present, you can read more about the display on their website at <https://blog.sciencemuseum.org.uk/planet-science/>. The NASA website also has a wealth of information about “Science on a Sphere” at [https://sos.noaa.gov/What\\_is\\_SOS/](https://sos.noaa.gov/What_is_SOS/) – Ed.]*

# DAVID EADON MEETS...



## DAVID QUY



David started his teaching career at Hendon School in 1972, working alongside such luminaries as Jack Driver and Doris Kay. He retired in 2004 after 20 years at UCS in Hampstead. He now enjoys an active and varied retirement, and retains his great passion for the immortal comic operas of Gilbert and Sullivan...!



### ***What made you decide to take up a career in teaching?***

It was entirely my choice. I used to play 'schools' with my family, and I wore a 'pakamac' for a gown.

### ***Was there a person who had a major influence on your career?***

There was no influence – but I did model myself on the teachers I admired most.

### ***Why was Hendon School so special to you as a member of staff?***

The school maintained its Grammar School traditions and had an excellent academic reputation. It was also close to my home!

### ***In a career of outstanding achievements, can you tell me one which was memorable for you?***

My first 'A' level French group – the results were outstanding. I also taught an 'O' level Spanish group which achieved good results.

### ***What was your particular specialism in language teaching?***

French and Spanish. I had a desk next to a teacher called Hans Freund who many will remember.



***Can you recall any particularly amusing incidents from your time at Hendon School?***

A Spanish boy kept putting itching powder down the backs of other students. When he was questioned, I had to translate his replies.

There were also separate staff rooms for male and female teachers.

Ironically, the male staff had to knock on the door of the female staff room to gain attention!

Finally, I always seemed to be selected for the staff hockey

or netball teams without knowing any of the rules!

***Can you tell me about some of the more memorable staff members from your time at Hendon School?***

Well ... there were many interesting members of staff.

First of all – Ted Ward, the headteacher. One day, he proudly announced that a special guest would be visiting the school. The guest was Alvin Stardust – pop star – but when Alvin was at the school, Mr. Ward made a complete fool of himself by dancing to one of the star's hit numbers.

Then there was Jack Driver – a blunt, gruff Yorkshireman. He was an avuncular man who was well loved by everyone.

The very popular Gertie Stranz – previous editor of this magazine – was held in high regard by everyone. She used to take early morning swims and was very involved in church activities.

Then there was Charles Western – an excellent organist. He was a very genteel man and favoured certain hymns. He was keen to involve students in the human aspect of musical participation.

Finally, Eddie Oatley – science teacher. Eddie was a talented magician, and he excelled at building cranes out of Meccano sets.

***If an older teenager asked you for advice on becoming a teacher – what would you say?***

I would tell the young person to find out the reputation of the school. If it is impressive – go ahead. Otherwise – think again!

***In three words – how would your friends describe you?***

Dependable. Humorous. Enthusiastic.

***The press tells us that fewer students than ever are opting for modern languages – how do you feel about this?***

This is very sad. There needs to be a complete re-think in the approach to language teaching.

***Is retirement a fulfilling experience for you?***

Oh yes ... I don't know how I ever found time to go to work!

In my present town of Teignmouth I am involved with a Spanish language group; I teach French; I read for the blind and am an exam invigilator.

I also find time for a little gardening!

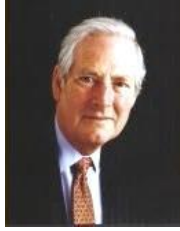
I have to say that I really enjoy the delights of the West Country – but North London will always be my spiritual home!

*[Hans Freund was the German language teacher in the 1970s – he also had a rather splendid Bass singing voice – Ed.]*





## DAVID HORCHOVER REMEMBERS



1946 – 1952

**M**r. Roderick was my geography teacher for several years, although “teacher” is probably not a terribly accurate description of his style of imparting knowledge. His style was painstakingly slow, as he merely copied out onto the chalk board in his rather beautiful handwriting the information which he held in his hand – a notebook from a previous pupil!

I cannot recall him ever saying much in class – but he did demonstrate how to draw the shapes of the major continents, and got us all to read the relevant (well-thumbed and used) text book which showed the major seas / oceans, cities, rivers, mountains as well as what were the main products of most countries. He then set us tests to see how much we had absorbed.

Many years later, when I was in my last year or two at school, he asked me if I had kept my notebooks taken from his handiwork many years earlier. Surprisingly I had – and he asked if he could have them, as he wanted to use them to do what he had done for years – write the notes on the board.

It was not until I arrived in the sixth form, to do my A-levels with another teacher, that I really began to study geography more in depth – but I suppose “Scrubs,” as he was named, did get us to learn the basics of what made up our planet.

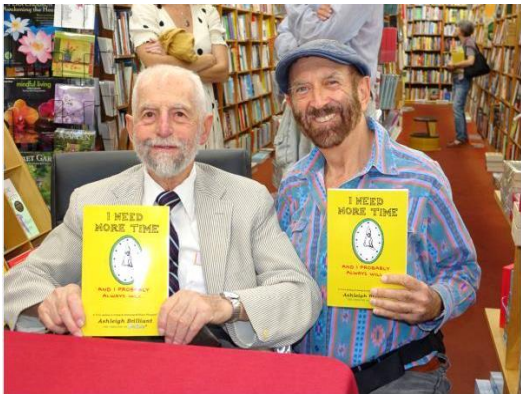
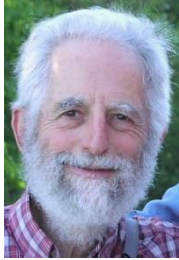
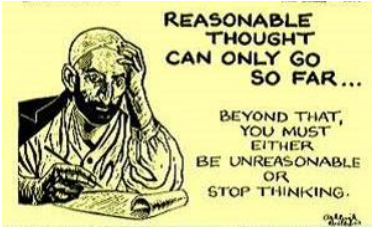
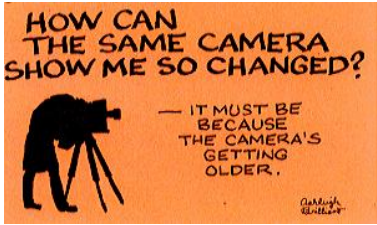
“Scrubs” also made the selections for the football and cricket teams. The lists were written up in his immaculate hand every Friday afternoon, and pinned up on the notice-board outside Mr. Lewis’s woodwork shop.

We never knew whether “Scrubs” had a sporting side at senior level – some said he played rugby, but he never mentioned it in all the years I was at school.

*Addendum from Derek Annas (1939 – 1945):* Mr Roderick was known to all as “Scrubs” due to the fact that he taught geography and used to describe low growing vegetation as “scrub land.” As he was rather small in stature, the nickname was obvious.



◆ The Ashleigh Brilliant Corner ◆



Last October, Ashleigh published a new collection of his pot-shots entitled “I need More Time – And I Probably Always Will” – his first for twenty years, and the tenth in his series.

Here’s a picture of him, with his good friend (and technical genius) Robert Bernstein, at a book-signing session he held at Chaucer’s Bookstore in Santa Barbara.

You can see more pictures, and a video recording of the event, on the internet at <http://swt.org/events/ashleigh-2019-1118/>

**A**fter all the planning, heavy traffic in communications, arrangements, parking and catering organisation, we finally made it to Saturday, 30 November. Nearly 40 classmates and two members of staff, Paddy Murphy – sprightly as ever – and Tony Bennett, whose looks also belied his age, gathered at the home of Carole (née Morris) and Reg Edward in Stanmore. Suspecting that perhaps our special vintage might no longer have enough in common to sustain an evening’s conversation, we had prepared a Hendon County-related quiz. However, we didn’t need it, because from the moment of stepping into the warm and welcoming atmosphere of the Edward home, the conversation flowed as we all excitedly recognised each other (well, mostly, although some of us have to admit to taking a sneaky look at name badges!) and caught up with what we had all been doing for the past few years. One classmate amazed us all by turning up in school uniform, and Paddy Murphy said he was amused by the role reversal when Carole took him by the hand and led him gently to the cab taking him home.

Most of us were still very recognisable – and it has to be said, the girls had all aged brilliantly, looking youthful and more glamorous than they had in school uniform. People came from far and wide: one classmate flew in from America, another arrived from Spain, and several friends had travelled long distances in the UK to attend the reunion.

It was a great pity that some classmates had to cancel due to ill health or family events and even in one case, a family bereavement – and some had decided it was all too long ago to attend a reunion. This was not the general feeling of the people who attended the very jolly party.

It was as if the 55 years or so had not gone by since we were all at Hendon County; and as we reminisced, some of us recalled happy

times, and the “rebels” reminded us of some of the perhaps less pleasant aspects.

It does seem that we were a very special year. Interestingly, many of our classmates returned to academe as worthy professors, and even those who had not had an entirely enjoyable experience at school have been extraordinarily successful in their chosen fields – once they had discovered what these were – perhaps despite their experiences at the school!

We had a very delicious buffet, with something for omnivores, pescatarians, vegetarians, vegans and kosher classmates ... and there was certainly enough drink, both soft and hard, flowing freely. Reg had really thrown himself into the swing of things even though he did not attend Hendon, and had put up a pergola, provided heating in it, moved all the furniture, supplied all the extras such as name badges, neat little glass holders which fitted onto plates, made tea, coffee and was our chief photographer.



Carole and Marion may consider planning another reunion in three or four years’ time by popular demand, but say they are having a bit of a rest for the moment!

Everyone had the best time and not a single complaint was received ...a record! Thanks to all those attending who made the planning so worthwhile and made it a memorable evening.

**Marion Godfrey (née Wiener)**

*[Grateful thanks to Carole and Marion for kindly inviting your Editor along ... the keen-eyed reader will no doubt spot him in the above photo!]*

Your Editor acted as event co-ordinator for the first general reunion to be held at the school for a number of years, on 14 July 2019. The weather was kind, and allowed the seventy or so who attended to bring back memories and walk round the school site, or take advantage of conducted tours offered by volunteer current students.

As with previous reunions, the main focus of activity was in the dining hall, where there was a splendid display of historical photos and other memorabilia – including your Editor's school report book! – and a slide show for good measure.

A very special tribute is due to your previous Editor, Trevor Easterfield, who had gone to great lengths sorting and categorising much of this material during his time as Honorary Archivist – and also arranging for some of it to be laminated for display.

Headteacher Rhona Povey and other current members of staff were present, and mingled happily with the guests. People divided into smaller groups as they met others they recognised, or just wanted to share memories with other Old Hendonians. Refreshments were on hand, and school merchandise such as mugs and bookmarks were available to buy, with volunteer current students manning the stands.

Some guests had come from abroad to attend, for example Michael Musikant (1950 – 1957) and his wife Diana from Portland, Oregon in the USA, and Sandra Langdon (1989 – 1997) from Toronto, Canada. Others had travelled considerable distances within the UK, for example former member of staff David Quy, who kindly agreed to feature in this edition's "David Eadon Meets." David Eadon himself, as well as Annette Bruce, came along. Other former members of staff present included Terry Starr-Marshall (1968 – 1991), Tony Pearce (1974 – 1976), Jill Hickman (1976 – 2014), and Jayne Croghan (1989 – 1999).

Although we didn't have quite as many guests as on previous occasions, those who did come left us in no doubt how much they had enjoyed themselves. Here is what some of them kindly took the time and trouble to write afterwards:

"Thank you so much for all your efforts in setting up the latest reunion. There was much to interest me even though I was a first former in 1947 – well done ... I was particularly impressed by the number of students who turned up to look after us golden oldies, confident personable youngsters ... Furthermore, I was home in time to watch the finish of an extraordinary World Cup Cricket Final. A GOOD DAY IN ALL ASPECTS although I was slightly upset by your school report – why could not Mr Potts have said a few kind things about me???"

"I just wanted to thank you again for your excellent hospitality on Sunday. It was very much appreciated and made my first return visit back to Hendon for very many years a memorable and most enjoyable one. The students looked after their visitors exceedingly well, both in the dining room and on the Thomas Cook tours of a much-changed school! Could you please thank them on my behalf and I'm sure on the part of every other visitor. They are an absolute credit to you, the school, their parents and their generation."

"I am writing to thank you, your staff and students, for a very enjoyable Alumni Reunion ... I met former students from my era, had a good gossip, and had a guided tour of the school. Two young ladies took me round the school buildings. I was most impressed by their knowledge of all parts of the school and the subjects taught, and how articulate they both were. I am not sure I could have matched their level of knowledge when I was a Hendon student, or even now."

Hundreds more flats could be built at a post-war council estate to meet the area’s soaring demand for homes.

Barnet Council wants to build six new blocks of flats up to seven storeys high at the **Fosters Estate** in Hendon, on the other side of Brent Street not far from the school.

The development would provide an extra 217 homes, half of which would be classed as affordable.



The new homes would be built in between 11 existing blocks of flats, which date back to the 1960s.

They would include 75 units of “extra-care” accommodation designed to help older people live independently.

With the borough’s population set to grow by almost a fifth in the next 25 years, the council is looking for “innovative” ways of providing new homes without building on the green belt.

Redeveloping the estate would involve knocking down Cheshir House, which features 28 units of sheltered accommodation.

The council says this block “no longer meets current housing needs or standards.”

Following the demolition in 2002 of Hendon Police Station in Brent Street, Hendon’s only remaining community police base, **West Hendon Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT)**, at 20 Vivian Avenue, was closed last year due to ongoing cuts in the Metropolitan Police budget.

The hub had two dedicated police officers who worked with the community, with access to extra support from officers in the wider area.

Conservative councillor for West Hendon, Helene Richman, collected more than 300 signatures in a petition against the closure. Cllr Richman warned shutting the hub down would leave people “unsupported and unprotected in the face of dangerously escalating crime in the area”.

She said: “There is huge concern, because there is serious crime like knife crime but also lower level crime.

“There is anti-social behaviour, drinking, the constant burglaries and stealing – it is a really big issue.

“The closure of the SNT hub will mean there is no police contact point for miles.”

Here she is, in the long coat, with MP for Hendon Matthew Offord (far right) and other activists who campaigned against the closure.



Figures from the Metropolitan Police showed there were 250 reported crimes in West Hendon during February 2019, with shoplifting and theft among the most common.

That worked out as 11 crimes per 1,000 residents – higher than the rate for the borough of Barnet (7 crimes per 1,000) and London as a whole (8 crimes per 1,000).

The corresponding figure for November 2019 was 284.

The closest police station to Hendon now is in Grahame Park, Colindale.

On to lighter matters ...

In July, residents may have been alarmed to see flames from a burning aircraft filling the sky – but there was no need to panic as it was only a simulated air crash.

Emergency services were

at **Elstree Aerodrome** to test their skills at responding to such incidents.



At the beginning of December, the Norwood Toy Sweep Committee invited 60 children and their families to Smyths Toys in **Staples Corner**, for their annual “toy sweep.”

The sweep, which is in its 19<sup>th</sup> year, saw doughnuts, balloon modelling, and plenty to do before the children and their families were able to choose what toys they wanted.

All of the money raised from these activities provided a Smyths voucher for each child, with the balance used by the staff at Norwood’s services to buy new resources.

Debra Kleinman, chair of the committee, said: “My committee works hard throughout the year. The Toy Sweep is a fantastic event, and there’s a lot to organise and lots of volunteers involved in making it happen. But ultimately, the children’s smiles on the day make it all worthwhile.”



Latest news on the proposed redevelopment of **Brent Cross Shopping Centre** – new plans are expected to be submitted to Barnet Council in the near future.

Readers will recall that the original £1.4 billion plan had been put on hold, with developer Hammerson blaming “turbulence in the UK retail markets” for the decision.

A report discussed at a council committee meeting in September noted the retail market “remains challenging,” and there had been “no update” on the planned start date for the wider Brent Cross North scheme.

But Stephen McDonald, the council’s director for growth, told the committee: “We have some confidence they (Hammerson) have at least activated the planning application.

They have indicated to us they will be coming forward with a revised plan.

We will have better sight of that in October/November, when they will indicate whether they are going to proceed some time within the next year with the revised scheme. It will be a new plan – not the existing plan.”

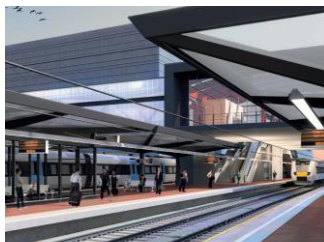
The council report shows the proposed West London Orbital (WLO) railway could be linked to the Brent Cross development.

Two options for connecting to the rail scheme – planned to run from Hounslow to Hendon and West Hampstead – are under consideration.

Here, too, is an update on redevelopment plans for an area close to Staples Corner and to the south of Brent Cross. Part of this is the **Brent Cross Thameslink programme**, which will support the wider regeneration of the Brent Cross and Cricklewood area. As mentioned in the 2018 issue, this will include a brand new mainline Thameslink station – Brent Cross West – linking up to the WLO railway, and connecting Brent Cross to central London in just 15 minutes.

The project will also see the creation of replacement sidings, a drivers’ accommodation centre, a waste transfer station, and a rail freight facility.

Here is an artist’s impression of the new station.



A new high street and town centre around the station is due to begin construction this year, based on a large scale mixed-use scheme – and a new pedestrian and cycle bridge to Brent Cross Shopping Centre over the North Circular Road. In the meantime, full planning permission for Claremont Park – also mentioned in the 2018 issue – was granted last October.

Staying with **Brent Cross Shopping Centre**, Barnet Council’s Public Health Team held a diabetes awareness week there, to mark Diabetes Week in June 2019, encouraging shoppers to assess their risk of developing type 2 diabetes, and providing them with general health advice from nurses and diabetes specialists. Over 200 shoppers were assessed, and 85 with high risk factors received a point-of-care test to screen for pre-diabetes or type 2 diabetes. Of these, 28 whose tests were positive were referred to their GP.

A brand new leisure centre at **Copthall** opened its doors last summer, with multiple gyms and a giant sports hall, a health and fitness suite, and plenty of other facilities besides. There is no shortage of activities on offer, ranging from fitness classes to swimming lessons, specialist health programmes to badminton and gymnastics, football to netball and basketball, and holiday activities to birthday parties.



**35 Crespiigny Road, Hendon**, looks like every other house in the street, and millions of other houses across Britain. But this unassuming detached dwelling in the north-west London suburbs played a key role in defeating the Nazis in the Second World War.



In 1944 this was an MI5 safe house, and it was from here that British intelligence officers sent crucial radio messages that convinced Hitler the D-Day landings would be at Calais, not Normandy. It was the culmination of a multi-layered plan that caused the Nazis to deploy their defensive troops in the wrong part of the coast, ensured the success of the landings, and changed the course of history.

During the war, Crespiigny Road was home to Juan Pujol García, a failed Spanish chicken farmer whom the Germans believed to be their top spy in Britain. In fact, he was working for MI5 under the codename “Garbo”, sending a stream of false information to Germany. Between January 1944 and D-Day, Pujol sent more than 500 radio messages to his gullible spymasters from Crespiigny Road.

The house, around the corner from Hendon Central Tube station, was also the setting for a domestic dispute between Pujol and his wife that threatened to derail the entire deception operation, and might have sent thousands of Allied soldiers to their deaths.

Pujol was a most unlikely wartime hero, but he possessed what his case officer called a “remarkable talent for duplicity.” As a young man he had fought on both sides during the Spanish Civil War, and emerged from that conflict with a hatred for fascism.

In the early part of the war, living in Madrid, he repeatedly offered to spy for the British, who turned him down on the not unreasonable grounds that he seemed to be mad. So he offered to spy for the Germans instead. Intent on betraying them at the first opportunity, he headed for Portugal, where he convinced his German spymasters he was in Britain by sending a stream of fictitious reports based on whatever he could cull from the Lisbon public library.

His wireless messages were intercepted by Bletchley Park, and initially caused consternation since they seemed to indicate a real spy was operating in Britain, despite him making some elementary mistakes. “There are people in Glasgow who will do anything for a litre of wine,” he reported.

MI5 swiftly twigged what was happening, picked up Pujol in Lisbon, brought him to Britain and installed him in Crespiigny Road with his wife, Aracelli.

REPÚBLICA DOS ESTADOS UNIDOS DO BRASIL  
 FICHA CONSULAR DE QUALIFICAÇÃO  
 MODELO 5.C. 100

Esta ficha, expedida em duas vias, será entregue à Polícia Marítima e à Imigração no porto de destino

nome por extenso **Juan Pujol Garcia**  abreviado

Temporário  permanente

Nos termos do art. 25 letra A do dec. n. 5.610 de 1938

Lugar e data de nascimento: **BARCELONA** em 24 / 2 / 1912

Nacionalidade: **Espanhola** Estado civil: **casado**

Filiação (nome do Pai e da Mãe): **Juan Pujol Forns e de Mercedes Garcia Quijano** Profissão: **Escritor**

Residência no país de origem: **Barcelona** em 26, Lago - Espanha.

Nome: **Juan** Sobrenome: **Fernando** Sexo: **Masculino**

FILHOS: \_\_\_\_\_ MEMÓRIAS: \_\_\_\_\_ DE 18 ANOS: \_\_\_\_\_

Passaporte n. 852 expedido pelas autoridades de Consulado de Espanha em Lisboa em data 12/8/1940

Assinado em \_\_\_\_\_ de 19 41 O CONSUL GERAL:

Assinado sob a \_\_\_\_\_ MATÉRIA DO PORTADOR: \_\_\_\_\_

*Juan Pujol Garcia*



Codenamed Garbo on account of his remarkable acting abilities, Pujol's controlled stream of disinformation became the lynchpin of the "Double-Cross System", the most sophisticated deception operation ever undertaken. With the aid of his Spanish-speaking MI5 case officer, he also invented a team of sub-agents, fictitious individuals supplying additional misleading intelligence to his fake network. Eventually Garbo "recruited" 27 bogus spies, including members of the "Welsh Aryan Brotherhood", an entirely non-existent group of Welsh fascists. (German intelligence was bizarrely convinced that the Valleys teemed with racial supremacists ready to rise up and overthrow the government.)

The only person not enchanted with Pujol was his wife, who was bored, homesick and increasingly estranged from her husband. She threatened to reveal to the Germans that her husband was a fraud. "I shall have the satisfaction that I have spoiled everything," she warned. To head her off, MI5 and Pujol staged a performance: two burly Special Branch officers appeared at Crespigny Road and told her that Pujol was under arrest because she had threatened to "give the whole show away".

Aracelli burst into tears, backed down completely, and promised she would never again interfere with his work. Pujol was as ruthless as he was clever, and quite prepared to deceive his own wife to preserve his spy network.

Garbo's finest hour came in the run-up to D-Day, when he played the pivotal role in the plan codenamed Fortitude, intended to convince the Germans that the main thrust of the invasion would come in Pas de Calais. A fake army was

assembled in Kent, including rubber tanks and wooden planes, while Garbo's team of counterfeit agents sent dozens of messages diverting German attention from Normandy, and focusing it on Calais.

At 3am on June 4, 1944, Garbo and his case officers gathered around the radio transmitter in Crespigny Road to send a message warning of the attack — too late for the Germans to respond, but early enough to maintain Garbo's credibility as the Nazis' top spy in Britain.

Operation Fortitude was an astonishing success. The invasion of Normandy came as a stunning surprise to senior German commanders in France, and throughout the summer, the Germans maintained two armoured divisions and 19 infantry divisions on the coast at Calais, awaiting an attack that never came. The Germans continued to believe in Pujol: six weeks after D-Day, he was awarded the Iron Cross on the orders of the Führer.

After the war, fearing reprisals from the Nazis, Pujol faked his own death and vanished to Venezuela, where he opened a bookshop. "My pride and satisfaction," he said, "has been the knowledge that I contributed to the reduction of casualties among the tens of thousands of servicemen fighting to hold the Normandy beachheads."

Four years before his death in 1988, Pujol was recognised for his wartime achievements at Buckingham Palace.



Now 35 Crespigny Road, where a small but vital part of the D-Day battle was fought, has received its own recognition, in the shape of a blue memorial plaque ... much to the surprise of its present owners, a family from Bangkok who had no prior knowledge of the story until their neighbours started to share it with them.

[Adapted from *The Times*, 1 June 2019]



# HENDON SCHOOL

## TODAY

- compiled by -

# ANNETTE BRUCE

### EXAM RESULTS

Once again, exam results have been excellent. As the acting headteacher, Craig McGuire, pointed out, the GCSEs have been reformed and present more of a challenge than previously. Despite this, the results showed the highest pass rate yet. At A-level, students gained the qualifications they needed to take them onto higher education in a range of subjects including pharmacy, business, philosophy and modern languages.

### MUSIC AND DANCE

Hendon Choir visited a nursing home, Magnolia Court, to perform for the residents there. Ms Zou, Head of Music, accompanied the choir on the piano, and the feedback from staff and residents was very positive. The residents are hoping for a repeat performance.



Students from Hendon School took part in the North London Festival, a celebration of music, speech and

drama. There were six students who made up the jazz band, and they won favourable comments from the judges as well as festival gold medals. Students obviously felt that they had learnt an incredible amount by working towards a performance, and the writer of the original article noted that his improvisation skills had definitely improved.

The new Dance and Drama building was completed during the summer holidays. It provides a spectacular space, as was shown in the inaugural dance and drama display in October. The school has been granted £75,000 from the Wolfson Foundation so that the new building can be fitted out with the most modern equipment.

### LIAISON WITH KING ALFRED'S

On 6<sup>th</sup> March, Year 7 and 8 HARP (Hendon Autistic Resource Provision) students were invited to King Alfred's School for the afternoon. Students from King Alfred's had previously been coming to Hendon School on an arts volunteering exchange programme. The trip included lunch while watching a recital, and meeting the animals such as chickens, rabbits and guinea-pigs living in the school grounds. The children at King Alfred's looked after the Hendon ones really well, so it became a day of happy memories.

Students from King Alfred's later attended drama communications classes in the HARP centre on a weekly basis, supported by three students and a teacher.

The HARP students were able to practise their communication skills and how to work as a group.

## PHOTOGRAPHY

AS-level photography students were invited to take part in the Hayward Gallery's "Takeover Day." The sessions were led by London sixth formers, and were designed to introduce the work of a well-known photographer, Diane Arbus, and the artist Kader Attia.

The group showed excellent teamwork, and were completely involved in their task of making a sphere built up from sketches of Attia's "cultural sculptures" collection.

When the Year 10 photography class visited Tate Modern, they were given the opportunity to talk about research on their chosen artist. Portraits and places around London Bridge and the Thames provided plenty of inspiration for the rest of the day.

Year 10 students were also taken to the Whitechapel Gallery, where they saw a video projection by artist Helen Cammock and sculptures by Michael Rakowitz. Both artists encouraged questions, and students were eager to learn more about the challenging political content. One student was actually invited to write a review about the exhibition at the Autograph Gallery. This was about an artist called Lola Flash. The student will be paid for her work, and it will be published on the Photographers' Gallery website.

One student has participated in a curators' tour which will enable him to present his own talk as part of the Teen Tours OUTSET programme run by the Photographers' Gallery.

Another successful visit was that of 30 GCSE photography students to the Autograph Gallery and Brick Lane. As inspiration, they were presented with the work of Lina Iris Victor, a Liberian-British artist.

In November, Year 11 GCSE photography students combined a journey into central London with a visit to the Photographers' Gallery, where a series of workshops all about photographing food increased the skills of the group. Favourites amongst the students for photography were Soho – and especially Chinatown – as well as the South Bank.

On a separate visit to Parliament Hill School, photography students shared photographic ideas, creative ideas and research.

## VISIT TO BELSIZE SQUARE SYNAGOGUE

Students learned about Jewish religion and also the Holocaust. A student wrote that "it was an honour to be able to hear stories from real life survivors of the tragic event." The student went on to say that the "staff of the synagogue were very kind to the students ... I never

believed I would be able to meet people who survived the most horrifying treatment because of their religious background, and think more children should be given the chance to hear these amazing stories."



## WORLD BOOK DAY

As the headteacher mentioned in her letter last year, the school celebrated World Book Day, and the theme was "Share a Story." The award-winning author, Caroline Green, delivered an assembly for Year 7 students, and she held two workshops for Years 8 and 10. People enjoyed meeting the author during lunch time, as well as learning more about the art of writing stories.

The author was very impressed with the knowledge and insight of the students, and looks forward to coming again.



There were also activities in the library – like share a story, book quizzes, writing book reviews and designing book jackets.

## MANGA EXHIBITION AT THE BRITISH MUSEUM

Manga is the Japanese art of telling a story through pictures. Although it is generally viewed as a modern invention, Torii Kiyoshige (1716-1759), Kitao Masanobu (1761-1816) and Katsushika Hokusai (1760-1849) all produced manga. Otomo Katsuhiro (b.1954) drew a wonderful version of Alice's Adventures in Wonderland.

Students were selected to join a 28-strong group either if they were members of the Manga Club, or on the basis of being excellent Japanese language students. This was apparently the largest manga exhibition outside Japan ever to take place.

Students pointed out that manga can be useful as a learning tool, for it gives a valuable insight into Japanese culture, and encourages children to read. It also has links with art, history and the present day.

## VISIT BY DEAF CHILDREN FROM LAYCOCK SCHOOL

Nine Year 5 deaf children from Laycock School in Islington joined with Hendon School's PDS (Provision for Deaf Students) department. They worked with PDS staff to make felt goldfish using sequins, eyes and hanging ribbon. They learned how to pin, sew and stick. After a break, in which table tennis was a popular feature, they all joined in a game of bench ball and dodge ball. Each visiting child was given a certificate, and at the end of the day were driven back to Islington.

## GERMAN EMBASSY CAREERS FAIR

According to the CBI (Confederation of British Industry), German is the second most studied language in the UK. Germany continues to be one of Britain's most important trading partners. As well as promoting German language and culture, the embassy wanted students to be aware of the opportunities for careers using the German language.

Students had the chance to explore several stalls featuring German companies like Hugo Boss, Commerzbank AG, Bosch, BMW and Lidl, and to meet representatives from those companies. There were also British representatives there, whose companies had important links with Germany. The visit was very successful – both for the information received, and also for the goody bags on offer!

## RAF / SMALLPEICE TRUST

Based in Leamington Spa, the Smallpeice Trust is a non-profit-making concern which aims to encourage interest in engineering. It was founded in 1966 by Dr Cosby Smallpeice, who was himself a brilliant engineer and inventor of the Smallpeice lathe. The Trust gives young people support and encouragement to bring their great ideas to life – using science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM).

On 5<sup>th</sup> November, the RAF and the Smallpeice Trust spent the day with Year 8 students in Hendon School to raise awareness about all aspects of flight. After an enthusiastic introduction by the Squadron Leader, the students were asked to make straw gliders and investigate different materials and wing shapes. Following this, the students worked in teams of five to build a glider which would travel the longest distance.



The teams had a number of challenges: purchase of materials with future profit possibilities; they had to come up with a unique selling point for the plane; and, finally, present their ideas to the Squadron Leader. The students acquitted themselves very well, receiving great praise from the RAF and the Smallpeice Trust.

**Egg magazine** celebrated its fifth issue, and to mark the occasion it was printed professionally. It was founded by the Photography Department at Hendon School, and is devoted to the creative arts. The current edition discusses issues concerning mental health.



Egg won an award, "highly commended," for their entry in the National First News, Newspaper of the Year Award. The money raised from sales of the magazine goes to a local charity, Youth Realities.

## CHANGE-MAKERS CAMPAIGN

A student in year 11, Angel, has been chosen as Poster Girl for the International Change-Makers Campaign in memory of Princess Diana. The Diana Award is the most prestigious a young person can achieve for their action in social or humanitarian work. Angel herself received a Diana Award in 2018 for improving mental health awareness in Hendon School through the “SOS, Stamp Out Stigma” campaign. The young people alongside Angel (circled in this picture) come from the



UK, USA, Canada, India and the UAE.

Angel has said: “To be a Change-Maker is to stand up for what you believe in, to take risks and be an advocate for change. I hope to continue to tackle issues such as mental health stigma, and ensure that those who need support and services get access to them. It was clear that many young people, although very vulnerable to experiencing mental health issues at some point in their lives, were unaware of what exactly mental health was, and had many misconceptions about the topic.”

You can meet the Change-Makers on the internet:

[https://diana-award.org.uk/pages/change\\_makers/](https://diana-award.org.uk/pages/change_makers/)

## SPORT

It has been a very successful year for all kinds of sports, including girls’ football.

A sports leadership event was held at Allianz Park, in which seven students took on the role of leaders for various sports and classes. Barnet Schools sent this comment (among several other very complimentary ones): “Please pass on my huge thanks to the Hendon leaders and to their teacher for being so professional and ensuring that the disability event was a success. Even out of their comfort zone with cricket and tennis, they delivered well-organised and progressive sessions which were adapted to the children’s needs.”

Eleven students were selected for the Barnet Districts Athletics Team, which was part of the Middlesex Athletics Championships of 2019. Further successes have been won in football, and in girls’ football, netball, basketball, cross-country and trampolining.

## Last but not least ...

In support of **Dr Povey** – who had to spend some time away from school for health reasons – the school launched “Project R,” which involved wearing something pink, writing goodwill messages (over 1000 were produced), making cards, selling badges and ribbons. In total, more than £1500 was raised. Dr Povey asked for the money to be donated to the Teenage Cancer Trust. The *Old Hendonian* wishes Dr Povey an excellent recovery.



Each month, the **languages department** posts up the “Linguists of the Month,” praising their hard work and “commitment to language learning.” Many countries have a saying to the effect that if you learn one language, you are one person ... if you learn another language, you become two people!

It is good to know that students and parents are suitably prepared for both the **sixth form** and for the entire process of applying to universities, further education or the world of work. The school spends a good deal of time ensuring that students are well-guided in their choices.

The **A-level Government and Politics group** combined with the **GCSE History class** to visit the Houses of Parliament. The visit included the Palace of Westminster, the House of Lords, and students even went into a committee room where subject specialists carefully scrutinise proposed legislation. The day finished with a debate between the two classes.

**Year 10 Art, Design and Technology and Textile** students worked with the charity shop All Aboard to celebrate spring, Passover and Easter. As a result of this collaboration, some students have decided that a career in retailing is very much for them.

The **mental health team students**, about whom a fair amount was written last year, contributed to an article in a national teaching newspaper. Here is the internet link if you would like to read it: <http://www.sec-ed.co.uk/best-practice/mental-health-stamp-out-stigma>

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.

**Bernard Glicksman** (1960 – 1967) passed away on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2019, aged 69.

**David Lister** (1960 – 1967), a former classmate, writes:

“I knew Bern from the age of five, although we only really became friends when we were ten. We both attended Broadfields Primary School in Edgware and Hendon County Grammar School, as well as Caius. Bern was academically successful throughout his time at Hendon County and became a Senior Prefect. He played in goal for the school teams and was always very popular. He appeared on Junior Criss Cross Quiz over many weeks and seemed almost unbeatable. I sometimes accompanied him in the chauffeur-driven car to the ITV studios. In the end, he won a large radiogram on which he indulged his passion for classical music, even at the age of 14.

Bern read Modern Languages at Caius. A woman had to travel up from North London to teach him Hungarian, but I understand that she did not always arrive. Bern enjoyed singing during his time at Caius, and continued to play football.

After graduation he taught for a while, but he finally resolved to practise law, and became a marine lawyer.

We continued to meet up, mainly to cheer on the terraces at Spurs. We then lost touch for a period of time – but I have been informed that one of his main activities outside work was playing the oboe in various orchestras, with which he toured Europe on a number of occasions.

We resumed contact when I heard through a mutual acquaintance that Bern had suffered a terrible ‘hit and run’ accident and was in the Whittington Hospital, where I visited him. As a consequence, he lost his spleen and the sight in one eye. Some time after this, Bern moved to Norway with his second wife, Caroline, to practise marine law with a firm in Oslo. Subsequent to this, he lived in Paris for a while, and then moved back to London, at which time I resumed



contact with him through the kind efforts of **Roger Keys**

(1960 – 1967). Recently, he completed an MA with distinction from Birkbeck College, University of London, in Comparative Literature.

In January 2019, Bern went back on a visit to Oslo, attended a synagogue service on the Saturday, and then a Holocaust Memorial service on the Sunday. A few days later, he was found collapsed in his hotel room with pneumonia and sepsis, and sadly died the next day in hospital. It has been speculated that the loss of his spleen may have made it harder for him to ward off this outcome.

Bern’s Jewish identity was very important to him, and he was a strong supporter of Israel. He had a great many friends, and there was a very large turnout at his funeral at Bushey Cemetery, at which his sister Barbara and our mutual friend Ian Fishman gave moving accounts of his life. Bern is survived by his two former wives, Rebecca and Caroline, and his sister Barbara.”

**Ian Fishman** (1960 – 1967), another former classmate, writes:

“It is with great sadness that I announce the death of Bernard Glicksman. He was one of the most popular, academically gifted and successful pupils from the 1960s when EWMP imperiously strutted the Chivers Corridor and imposed his system of education.

I first encountered Bern in 1960, when we were fellow classmates in form 1B. Our form mistress and maths teacher was Miss Button. Mrs Doran taught English, Miss Riddiford French and Latin-English, Mr Stallwood-Betts History, Miss Gillard Geography, and Mr Haynes PE.

Fellow classmates included Stephanie Levene, Susan Ellis, Mick Fisher, Anthony Fisher, David Grundon, Laura Herman, Teresa Gilbey, Ruth Hirsham, Susan Harvey, and Mick Frydman amongst others.

Bern always excelled from those early years in whatever took his interest. He was an excellent linguist in French, German and Latin. He went on to study French and Hungarian at Gonville and Caius, Cambridge, from 1967 to 1970.

He loved music, became a prolific oboist, and often performed in orchestras and private music gatherings around the UK and Europe.

He was equally passionate about football: he played for the school teams and was a fearless goalkeeper. He loved Spurs, and I remember many occasions, good and bad, when we went together to White Hart Lane. He

watched Spurs from the late 1950s, and could proudly recite forwards and backwards each member of the Spurs 'Double' team of 1960 – 1961: Brown, Baker, Henry, Norman, Blanchflower, Mackay, Dyson, Allen, White, Smith, Jones, and Terry Medwin. I remember going to Spurs one foggy evening in the mid-1960s to watch Spurs v Manchester United in an FA Cup replay. Just as the game was about to begin, the fog descended, and the match was postponed to the following week.

On another occasion, we watched 20 minutes of Spurs v Everton until the floodlights failed. There were more joyous occasions, and I remember celebrating when we both attended the memorable Cup Final replay in season 1980 – 1981, when Spurs beat Manchester City 3 – 2.

Bern was a senior prefect in the sixth form, was very popular amongst his peers, and was known and respected throughout the school. He performed as a policeman in Gilbert and Sullivan's *Iolanthe*. He forged close bonds with members of the school staff, including the late Jack Driver, and Tony Bennett, his former French teacher, who indeed attended his funeral.

We remained firm friends throughout our lives. I studied law at Manchester University, and I recall our exchange visits: he to Manchester and me to Cambridge.

We enjoyed a number of holidays together. I remember driving in my Ford Escort through Holland, and experienced being shunted in Apeldoorn, and then driving on the German autobahn assisted by a passing German motorist after running out of petrol. We walked through the bazaar in Istanbul. We had our belongings stolen from our hotel in Sunny Beach, and then travelled all day by train to Sofia and stayed in Government-approved tourist accommodation. The owner spoke no English, but welcomed us with Tom Jones' 'Green Green Grass of Home' blaring out from his record player.

I visited Bern in Oslo, where he lived for many years with his second wife, and remember travelling to Bergen and experiencing Norway in a nutshell.

Bernard was twice married and twice divorced. Maybe marriage did not suit him, but he stayed in touch and on close terms with both of his ex-wives. He was a complex and deep-thinking person who did not suffer fools gladly. Throughout his life, he made and kept an abundance of friends through his many activities. He was an introvert and almost secretive in some ways. He managed to compartmentalise his friendships, and I only discovered at his funeral how vast his circle of friends were. He kept his school friends throughout his life, including Keith Lester, David Lister, Peter Steiner, Peter Neidle, Laura Herman, Andrea Pack, Monica El Eini, Paloma Raychbart, Eleanor Goldman and Barry Nathan, many of whom attended his funeral.

In recent years, Bern and I organised informal school

reunions involving some of the above, plus also Robert Zeffman, Peter Fraser, Tony Zucker, Hilary Daniels, Irene Beiber, Judy Philip, Geraldine Max, Vivien Altman, and Barbara Bridgen.

Bern initially trained to be a teacher, but switched careers and successfully retrained as a solicitor. He became a successful shipping lawyer, both in London and later in Oslo. Following retirement about five years ago, he spent the next 18 months living in Paris before returning to the UK. He carried on as a consultant in the legal profession, but developed new interests and hobbies. He became fascinated by the life of Sigmund Freud – so much so that he became a volunteer helper at the Freud Museum in Hampstead, near to his home, and ended up giving regular lectures.”

Here is a 2016 photo, taken in Paris, of Ian (centre)



flanked by Bernard on the right, and Peter Neidle on the left. Also an Old Hendonian, Peter is a partner in Ian's law firm.

The **Freud Museum** posted the following tribute to Bernard on their website, together with the picture shown below.

“On Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> January, we received the very sad news that our dear friend and colleague Bernard Glicksman had passed away the day before in Oslo.

It was such a shock to us all here at the museum, because Bernard always seemed so full of life and took such an interest in so many things. Bernard began volunteering here in March 2016, and over the last 3 years he became a crucial member of our team, helping out with the Front of House and also writing and delivering a series of very erudite and popular public talks.



Bernard was extremely well-read and intelligent, yet he always wore his learning lightly, and his studiousness was tempered by an impish sense of humour. Bernard was also a very humble man, who had a curiosity about the world and a concern for other people which made him a delight to work with, whether in delivering a talk to a group of fascinated visitors, or over a glass of wine whilst discussing Freud's 'Dora' case at our Freud Museum reading group.

To judge by the number of people who attended his funeral, it is clear that the Freud Museum was just one small part of Bernard's life, and that there were a great many people who were touched by his warm, kind and approachable manner.

We will all miss him very dearly, and our thoughts go out to his sister Barbara and his family and friends."

Last year's obituaries included **Mr Colin Lever** (1949 – 1957) who passed away in November 2016.

**David Kingston** (1948 – 1955) has sent in the following recollections:

"Colin was my oldest friend. We first got to know each other when sitting right at the back of the Sixth Form room in 1954-55 when he was in the first year Sixth and I was in the second year. I then did two years National Service in the RAF before going up to Balliol, where I

was pleased to find that Colin had won an Exhibition to read Maths. Our friendship continued both for the three

years when we were at Oxford, and then later right up to his death in 2016. In 1961, when I was working in the West End and Colin in the City, we started meeting regularly for lunch in Holborn where the Piccadilly Line crossed the Central. We carried on meeting for lunch somewhere in Central London for the next 55 years (apart from four years when I was working overseas). During that time, we closely followed each other's careers and family progress. In particular, I recall in the early days his telling me how he was working on measuring investment performance management. Little did either of us realise he was laying the foundations for what is now the investment performance management industry! In more recent years, he would take me on very enjoyable flights in his Cessna 172 to various parts of the country. He is very much missed."



**Ron Sercombe** (1942 – 1947) passed away on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2020. He emigrated to New Zealand in 1952, and joined their Royal Air Force. He was a regular contributor to

the magazine. Some readers may recall his reports – in the 2011 and 2012 issues – of earthquakes which caused major damage to his home town of Christchurch, from which he and his family happily emerged unscathed.

**Reg Beckley**, an old friend and schoolmate, thinks Ron was evacuated during the war years, and recalls he was a sporting all-rounder, playing right-back for the First XI football team and excelling in the cricket team.

**Ron Hooker** (c.1946 – 1953) late of Northwood, Harrow, passed away on his 85<sup>th</sup> birthday last year, 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2019, a few months after suffering a bad fall. After leaving school, he did his two years in the National Service, as a radar technician in the RAF. He then played cricket for Middlesex for 14 happy seasons. Like Ron Sercombe, he was a very good all-round sportsman, excelling at golf and football. Your Editor is grateful to **Beryl Lester, née Rosenthal** (1947 – 1953) for all this information. Readers of last year's issue will recall that she and Ron – having lost their spouses in their late seventies – met up again at a school reunion, started dating, and ended up together in their eighties. Beryl goes on to say: "We had four very happy years – lots of laughs, as you would expect, especially about schooldays and recalling our time at HCGS."

**Our anonymous correspondent** – who first told us this story last year – adds: "A sad end to a lovely romance! Ron passed away ... leaving one son, Ian Hooker. His partner was so sad, but at least they had a short spell of happiness."

**John McCartney** (1955 – 1962) passed away on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2019, at the age of 75.

His sister **Elizabeth Ackroyd** (1957 – 1964) – whom your Editor had the pleasure of meeting in person at the "Class of 1957-64"

reunion – writes:

"Lilian, our sister, was at Hendon County until 1959, so at one stage, all three of us were pupils. John continued his ties with Hendon County, playing for the Old Hendonians Football Team. I am sure his Old Hendonian friends will be as saddened as us to know that he has died, too soon."



**Harvey Goldstein** (c.1951 – 1958) passed away on 9<sup>th</sup> April, 2020, aged 80.

The following is taken from an obituary published in *The Guardian*.

Using research to improve peoples' lives is rarely straightforward. The finding in 1950 by Richard Doll and Austin Bradford Hill that cigarettes caused cancer caused a great stir, though not great enough to persuade people to smoke less. However, in 1972 the statistician Harvey Goldstein, who has died of Covid-19, ultimately changed the behaviour of many mothers by demonstrating that smoking during pregnancy produced vulnerable babies. A social habit with relatively little impact on the fetuses of advantaged mothers could prove a serious risk for those born in poverty.

This was one of many significant findings from eight years' work at the Institute of Child Health, London. There Harvey collaborated with Neville Butler, the initiator of a cohort study of all children born in Britain in one week in March 1958, which has continued. Harvey was responsible for planning its next stage during his time at the National Children's Bureau (1972 – 1977).

Then, at the age of 38, Harvey was appointed professor of statistical methods at the Institute of Education, London, where Professor Peter Mortimore was his colleague for 10 years. He was an expert in educational assessment, and established a fearsome reputation through battling successfully with statisticians from the National Foundation for Educational Research over the methodology of the government's fledgling assessment and performance unit.

The unit was abolished when the 1988 Education Reform Act extended testing to all pupils. This resulted in league tables purporting to show schools' efficacy. Harvey pointed out that their margin of error often exceeded the actual differences between the schools' scores. Nonetheless, successive ministers have ignored such advice – and the education system has been saddled with what Harvey viewed as an albatross.

The increased availability of computers helped him to develop multilevel statistical modelling, linking the data of individuals to their contexts. In this way, the progress of pupils could be distinguished from that of their class or school, and the method could be applied to other settings, including hospitals and business.

Harvey and colleagues also developed software and dedicated training packages, and multilevel modelling is now accepted internationally as the most appropriate way



of undertaking much data analysis.

In 2005, Harvey took his research team to Bristol University, combining a part-time professorship there with posts elsewhere. At Bristol, he worked with officials from the Home Office and the Office for National Statistics, and with the university's social researchers.

In particular, he worked on improving the linkage and accessibility of large-scale data sets, and with ways to cope with missing information. He maintained his critique of the government's school accountability measures, including in 2017 a presentation to the education select committee.

Technological advances throughout Harvey's career enabled the collection of increasingly vast amounts of data, but statistical techniques need to be robust for data to be trustworthy enough to inform public policy. Currently, the government is drawing on statistical modelling to inform its approach to the coronavirus crisis. Collecting and analysing such data generate complex technical and ethical issues – Harvey devoted himself to dealing with both.

Born in Whitechapel, in the East End of London, and brought up in Edmonton, Harvey was the only child of non-observant Jewish parents whose own parents had come from eastern Europe. His father, Jacob, used evening classes to become a semi-skilled engineer; his mother, Millie (née Belanoff), was a hat-maker.

When Harvey was five, she died of a heart attack, leaving him with his grandparents until his father returned from military service. When Harvey was 11, his father remarried and Harvey gained a stepsister. His father and stepmother were fervent communists, and Harvey was a member of the Young Communist League until the Soviet invasion of Hungary in 1956.

At Hendon County Grammar School (now Hendon School), Harvey excelled in maths and science, and he went on to gain a degree in pure mathematics (1961) at Manchester University. While there he met Toby Lewis, a politically radical statistician; and an undergraduate survey of housing in Notting Hill, west London, led him to realise that statistics was a tool that could improve people's lives.

After a postgraduate course at University College London (1962), he worked there as a research assistant, before moving in 1964 to the Institute of Child Health. In addition to his book *Multilevel Statistical Models* (2011), Harvey published over 400 papers, and edited the journal *Statistics in Society*. He also held part-time appointments at what is now the UCL Great Ormond Street Institute of Child Health, and the Australian Catholic University, Brisbane. In 1988, he was awarded the Royal Statistical Society's Guy silver medal, and in 1996, he was made a fellow of the British Academy.



He encouraged younger colleagues to use evidence to challenge existing thinking, and remained a left-leaning rebel, moving from Labour to Green politics. In 1970 he married Barbara Collinge, and they had a son, Tom. Listening to classical music was a lifelong interest, and when his son renounced flute lessons, Harvey took the instrument up, joining a wind band and an orchestra. Another interest was cycling, and he and his wife produced a book of rides, *Wheel Around Norfolk* (1994). Barbara and Tom survive him.

**Andrew Weiner** (1960 – 1967) passed away in Toronto on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2019, after a short illness. His old friend and schoolmate, **David Lister**, writes: “Andrew grew up in Edgware. I was educated with him at Broadfields Primary School and Hendon County. He was my friend from the age of 9. Andrew was very gentle and kind, and extremely intelligent and gifted. He went on to Sussex University. His fellow student Leon Grunberg (1965-1967) wrote about his time there: ‘I knew him best when we were both at Sussex (1967-1970). We spent many hours together doing the usual things – but what I remember best is how he took the initiative, and created and filled the music critic position at *The Badger*, the student union newspaper. I remember that his articles won him plaudits from a national music journalist. Andrew, in his quiet,

unassuming way, impressed many people with his intelligence and perceptiveness.’ A few years after leaving university, Andrew moved to Canada with his Canadian wife, Barbara. He worked mainly as a writer of science fiction books and articles on rock music. He is survived by Barbara and his son Nathaniel.” **Ian Fishman** adds: “We were quite friendly at one time – we studied the same A-levels and kept in touch prior to him emigrating to Canada. My late mum and his dad grew up as near neighbours in the East End.”

**Charles Frydman** (1960 – 1967) was a well-regarded optician in Hackney, following in his uncle’s footsteps. **Ian Fishman** writes: “Charlie was a very nice chap who married a girl from Hendon County, Pat Schaverin. He used to play the drums – I recall he was in a school pop group with the late Brian Dennis and Winston Mullard. He is survived by his twin brother Michael (Mick) Frydman, another Old Hendonian.”

\*\*\* STOP PRESS \*\*\*

**Brian Worboys** (1947 – 1954) sadly passed away at home on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2020. He and his old classmates **Philip Churcher**, **Tony Lee**, and **Brian Hawken** were lifelong friends. More to follow in next year’s magazine.



## Can You Help?

With the increased use of email and the updating of our mailing list, we have only managed to lose contact with two Old Hendonians this time round:

**Mr David Golding** and **Mrs Margaret Vane**.

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



**FORM 3L CLASS PHOTO**  
**circa 1963**

**Back row:** David Lister, Peter Solley, Robert Zeffman, David Laitner, John Cookson, Robert Stebbing, Andrew Weiner, Stuart Goldenberg

**Third row:** Ian Fishman, Michael Frydman, Nicholas Dean, Anthony Fisher, Bernard Glicksman, Ronnie Gordon, Barry Stekel, Michael Fisher, Keith Lester

**Second row:** Hazel Birney, Laura Herman, Muriel Sudwarts, Lorraine Sheldon, Miss Ellen Munt (Form tutor and English teacher), Coralyn Sheldon, Ann Otten, Judith Philip, Paloma Raychbart

**Front row:** Teresa Gilbey, Barbara Reuben, Sandra Pressman, Sally Lewis, June Poster, Hilary Daniels, Nita Shatz, Valerie Thomas. (Missing – Barbara Brigden)

Of the above, now sadly deceased –  
Ann Otten, Andrew Weiner, David Laitner, and Bernard Glicksman

*Grateful thanks to Ian Fishman for providing not only the photo, but all the names as well!*





# HENDON SCHOOL

Photo:  
Frank Cooper

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**FOUNDED 1914**



## THE OLD HENDONIAN

**== INCORPORATING ==**

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

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letters: care of the School

Material for inclusion in the next edition should reach Alan Freedman by 31 March, 2021



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