

# THE OLD HENDONIAN ◆ 2022 ◆



## ISSUE NUMBER THIRTY-ONE

*Dear Old Hendonians and Friends,*

**A** very warm welcome to the thirty-first edition of the *Old Hendonian*. Once again, we are fortunate to include a wide range of material which will hopefully be of interest to all. My grateful thanks go to all contributors. We have an even wider range of school memories than usual – stretching from 1950 right through to 1991! – an entertaining interview slot by David Eadon, the usual creative contributions from Miriam Webber and Ashleigh Brilliant, and a poignant poem with a contemporary touch from Tony Lee.

I extend a very warm welcome to two new regular contributors: Reg Beckley, with a selection of his extensive reminiscences from the 1940s, and Yen Yee Chong, a practitioner in Traditional Chinese Medicine and similar fields, who shares his medical musings with us. And a particularly special welcome back to the Headteacher, Rhona Povey, who has gone out of her way to give us an extended letter which includes a selection of snapshots of school life during the current academic year.

My usual thanks go to my proofreaders – and, of course, 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**

**POET'S CORNER**  
**FROM MIRIAM WEBBER ...**

**SIMON MARKS JEWISH PRIMARY SCHOOL, HACKNEY, LONDON**

While skimming through the paper  
with my lunch on Friday last  
I came across an article  
that linked me to the past,

about a Jewish primary school  
that caters for all races,  
the picture showed the children  
seated, all with happy faces.

A former Jewish Day School moved  
here,  
back in seventy-three,  
this school takes all denominations -  
teaching harmony.

The neighbourhood is poor, but all  
wear uniforms in blue,  
the girls in skirts, the boys wear  
skullcaps  
neat striped neckties, too.

A keen desire to learn,  
high aspirations are the aim,  
respect for all diversity:  
“We are not all the same.”

But more than this, the school's *address*  
was what had caught my eye,  
I have a photo of that house,  
just one, to testify

that seventy-five, in Cazenove Road  
- nobody else could know -  
was once my mother's family home  
one hundred years ago.



75, Cazenove Road 1918

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

## NEWS FROM OLD HENDONIANS

Your Editor's postbox in the last year included a delightful letter from **Pauline Coward, née Parker (1947 – 1954)** in which she wrote:

I very much enjoyed reading issue 30 of the *Old Hendonian*. I am transported back to September 1947 when I was thrilled to be a new girl at Hendon County Grammar School – the only school I had wanted to move onto from primary school. I was so proud to have passed the scholarship – we did not call it the 11-plus in those days. I remember going with my mother to buy my school uniform – I don't think that I had ever had new clothes before.

I loved my years at the school. I was very much middle range in academic achievements, though I did progress to a teacher training college, part of Durham Education Authority.

I still have two close friends from my Hendon County days, and I also have happy memories of other fellow pupils who are now just names and faces on fading photographs. Of course, reading the obituaries always makes me sad – Brian Worboys and Robin Hale were both in my year.

My last teacher was among the staff obituaries. Mrs Oxbury was an excellent teacher. I remember her as quite small but very firmly in control of our biology class. I really enjoyed her lessons. She did actually teach, rather than expect us to copy facts from the blackboard.

Another excellent teacher, who is rarely mentioned in memory lane, was Miss E. Thornton. She was one of three English teachers, and the other two are often recalled: Miss Munt and Miss Allen. Perhaps Miss Thornton was less glamorous than the other two ladies, but she certainly gave me a love of literature, and a grounding in grammar.

Incidentally ... in a previous edition of the magazine, you published a photo of a group of pupils looking at a box of chocolates. I think Phil Churcher had provided the photograph. The story behind the box of chocolates was not included. They were not just any old choocs – not that most of us had seen such a box in 1953 – but had been given to Marguerite (“Margot”) Dane by none other than Marshal Tito. Margot – our head girl – had gone, with two other pupils from different schools, to present Tito in London with a cheque for about £30. This money had been collected from the schools to aid needy children in Yugoslavia. Each donating pupil was

then handed a box of chocolates as a thank you. I don't know the ultimate fate of the gifts, or if the chocolates had come, by plane, with Tito from his homeland. I doubt that Margot would have been allowed to keep the gift ... but the event was news enough to appear, with photo, in the Hendon and Finchley Times.



Looking through the school's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary brochure prompted **Malcolm Leaf (1944 – 1951)** to recall another member of staff from that time who made a particular impression on him – Mr John Galleymore, a languages teacher (c.1946 – 1949).

Malcolm goes on to say:

I had him initially for French, but he also taught Spanish. When, in September 1947, I was given the option of changing one subject (geography, as it happens) for another language, I opted for Russian – another Galleymore accomplishment.

Six of us did that, and I did pretty well in the Schools Certificate exam in 1949 thanks to JG.

His departure then was a source of great disappointment, as I would have followed Russian and JG into the sixth form. When he arrived, his appearance and style made my form “take the rise” out of him ... but soon we came to love him.

A warm welcome to one of our new subscribers, **Conrad Myers (1963 – 1970)**, who discovered the *Old Hendonian* via the alumni section of the school's website. He writes:

It brought back fond memories of my school days and of good friends from those days. Many of these friends are in Mr Bennett's second or third form class photo that is shared in Charles Jourdan's thoughtful piece in the 2020 *Old Hendonian*. There's also a touching memorial in the magazine to a group of characterful, gifted, caring, exceptional masters – among whom Robin Stallwood Betts, Ivor Chapman and Jack Driver stand out. Mr Driver's mantras on French pronunciation and his Yorkshire accent ring in my ears today, 56 years later:



“Roll your r’s boy!” and “*une bouteille du soleil*, three times class”.

I have travelled far from our home in Hendon. After PPE at Lincoln College, Oxon (with much thanks to Ivor Chapman, a Lincoln alumnus) and some years with Arthur Andersen’s in the City, I moved to the USA in 1977, met my wife in Southern California, and since 1992 have resided in Portland, Oregon in the great Northwest. I retired two years ago after a career in business insolvency practice and executive management here and for a time in Germany ... I couldn’t have enjoyed the academic and professional successes I have achieved in my life without the foundation of education I benefited from at HCGS.

Here – from left to right – are **Dick Coldwell, Grant Kriteam, Chris Kaufman and Ken Sheringham** (all **1958 – 1965**) “having it large” as some used to say, at lunch in London last autumn.



The RAF Museum played host to BBC Question Time on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2021.

Here are **David Ellis (1968 – 1975)** – one of your Editor’s old classmates – and his wife Miranda, who were in the invited audience.



David adds: “We didn’t get to ask our questions or get picked by Fiona Bruce to put our point of view.

However, it was an interesting experience – and I have a particular link with the aircraft in the studio view. My late father helped build Spitfires during WW2 years, while his older brother (my uncle) was shot down in July 1944 in a Lancaster bomber over France – both planes featured as well in the programme.”

An article about **Gerald Ratner (1961 – 1962)** appeared in the 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2021 edition of the Daily Mirror, nearly 30 years after his joking description of one of his products as “total crap” – perhaps one of the biggest corporate gaffes ever – proved fatal to his jewellery business.

After suffering from depression for many years afterwards, he made a fresh start.

He started a health club in Henley, Oxfordshire, with no money, sold it for almost £4 million, and is now involved in an online jewellery business.

Until the pandemic struck, he was also making a living giving speeches – between 50 and 100 a year – about what happened to him, which he said he “enjoys more than running Ratners.” He also mentors others.

Refreshingly honest about what happened to him, the former tycoon told the paper he “won’t be celebrating” the anniversary of the speech.

But he added: “There is no point in being bitter and there is always an upside. There is a silver lining to everything, and my life has turned out to be fine.”

You can read the full article online at:

<https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/mr-crap-gerald-ratner-battles-23843472>

Ever wondered how your favourite TV theme tunes compare – and where they would stand in a ranking against each other?

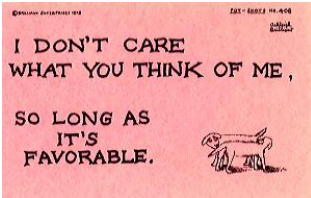
If so, then you’re in luck, as a poll last summer by Classic FM and the Radio Times has revealed the public’s favourite TV theme tunes of all time.

Some of the shows that ranked well included *Game of Thrones*, *Poldark*, and *The Vicar of Dibley*.

No doubt **Christopher Gunning (1955 – 1962)** would have taken quiet satisfaction that his theme tune for *Poirot* came in at number 15.



# ◆ The Ashleigh Brilliant Corner ◆



## THE COLOUR OF PEACE

A tragedy though I would call it farce  
That Humankind for all its  
good invention  
Still fights its wars of race or creed  
or class  
Yet claiming they are fought  
with good intention

And here on earth as compass  
points oppose  
So did the Madmen from the East  
and West  
Avowing the philosophies they chose  
Are sacrosanct and by their own  
Gods blessed

On stage, two men, the last two men  
on earth,  
Of diverse faith, they speak fine words  
of peace  
Yet faith divides, by accident of birth,  
And only with their death shall  
conflict cease

From dead scorched earth  
Resurgent nature no man could  
subdue  
Fresh shoots shall rise and  
woodland flowers  
Shall cloak the world in blue

**TONY LEE**  
1947 – 1952



I “graduated” from Edgware junior school in 1950 after a successful 11-plus effort. This caused something of a problem for my mother (my father was long dead, having passed away before I was born) because I was offered three possible grammar schools, these being Orange Hill, Christ’s College and Hendon County, and neither she nor I had any idea which to choose. However, a neighbour of ours, a schoolteacher, unreservedly recommended Hendon County ... and what a good choice it proved to be! Thus it was that I and Mike Musikant, the only other “graduate” from Edgware, arrived together for our first day at HCGS. We were suitably impressed, if not intimidated, by the size of the building and, let it be said, by the size of the senior pupils. There was an intake of about 100 pupils, and we were known as “Rabs”, short for rabbits. We were divided into three classes, merely on an alphabetical basis – and being a “B” I was in class 1A.

John Betts, who taught history, was our form master, and remained so until we left the school in 1957, when he was recycled back to the beginning for a fresh intake. Among our other teachers in those early years I have little memory. Miss Williams comes to mind who took us for maths, Mr Chivers for science, and I think it was Miss Poulton who took us for music, but of the others I have no memory.

The war was not long over, and the school still suffered from various shortages. Text books had not been replaced for very many years and one duty, at the beginning of a new term, was to go through each book to see if any pages were missing and then assemble complete copies from the fragments. I also remember the rough book from which we would transfer good copy into our exercise books.

At the end of our first year we were again divided into three classes, 2A, 2B and 2L, the “L” indicating Latin, and Mr Edwards was our Latin teacher. Over the following years I also remember that Jack Driver, an energetic and excellent teacher, took us for French. Mr Thomas, and later Mr Morris, were our maths masters, Mr Gow for physics, Miss Stranz for chemistry, Mr Betts remained our history master, and Mr Roderick geography. Mr Roderick was known universally as “Scrubs”. He was a small man, and it seems that he had once referred to semi-desert landscapes with short stunted growth as “scrub,” and promptly acquired this description himself. Miss Evans somehow got me through O-level English language and literature. One had to drop certain subjects at the end, I think, of year three, and I dispensed with art at which I was hopeless, and also French, which was a pity! In those days it was decreed that if one was to continue to A-levels, then those subjects to be taken at A-level would be by-passed at O-level, thus my O-levels consisted merely of English language, Latin, history and geography. Hence I passed into the sixth form for pure maths, applied maths, physics and chemistry. Mr Murphy, who took us for applied maths, joined Mr Morris, Mr Gow and Miss Stranz for our A-level years, and we could not have asked for better teachers.

Many readers will remember the daily one-third pint bottle of milk to which each pupil was entitled. These were delivered early in the morning, and were distributed from the ground



FORM 2L OR 3L – 1952 or 1953

*Back row – left to right: Fred Rush, Jim Ballantyne, Paul Armstrong, Bob Adams, Roger Bruck, Dave Cohen, Johnny Sinclair, Johnny Barnett*

*Third row – left to right: Jack Newman, Peter Gordon, Johnny Glassbrook, John Kraushaar, Dave Thacker, Bernard Goldberg, Maurice Brodie, Herbert Frank, Mike Musikant, Sid Artz*

*Second row – left to right: Madeleine Berg, Rosemary Higgins, Judith Hart, Marion Limburg, Barbara Watts, Mr Betts, Sylvia Hanstater, Doreen Cohen, Ruth Aaronberg, Janet Childs*

*Front row – left to right: Jane Barker, Anne Powell, Jennifer Escow, Esther Bartlett*

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floor area bounding the playground at morning break. This area was also used as a bicycle park by those energetic enough to cycle to school. I was elevated to the dizzy heights of milk monitor for a time, and well remember hawking any extras to thirsty schoolmates. The aluminium tops were carefully collected by a small group of enthusiastic girls, washed, and recycled, the proceeds being used to support an animal charity. Mention of the bicycle park reminds me that I found it preferable to cycle to school from our home in Mill Hill, because it was a great deal quicker than the 240 bus, even though I had a bus pass.

Another gastronomic delight were the school dinners, which cost 2s/11d per week (about 15p in today's money). There was no choice ... unless one accepts yes or no as choices! The dinners were not cooked on the premises, but were delivered in large insulated containers. I particularly remember the brown stews, the tapioca pudding (known as frogspawn!) and the cabbage which had been so compressed in its container that it had

become stratified and resembled some geological formation rather than a foodstuff. But I was always hungry in those days, and ate whatever was put before me!

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SIXTH FORM – 1956 or 1957

*Back row, left to right: Jack Newman, Roger Bruck, Jim Ballantyne, Barry Fowler, Jimmy Ambrose, Dave Thacker, Bernard Goldberg*

*Middle row, left to right: Peter Gottlieb, Norman Dickens, Dave Cox, Cliff Bonnick, John Kraushaar, Brian Freestone, Herbert Frank, George Miall, Peter Williams, Chris Friend*

*Front row, left to right: Jane Barker, Madeleine Berg, Marion Limburg, Judith Hart, Sylvia Hanstater, Valerie Horace, Mr E W Maynard Potts, Mr Betts, Ann Hughes, Marion Lansdowne, Rosalind Borthwick, Rosemary Higgins, Pat Stevens, Valerie Katz*

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For one of my later years at HCGS, I held the office of Chairman of the Horological Society. This grandiose title concealed the fact that I was the only member, and my function was to wind and adjust the school clocks. If I remember correctly, there were four, one of which was close to the chemistry lab and required the use of a ladder. There were no safety precautions, and today the HSE would no doubt insist on there being at least



one assistant, plus provision of suitable PPE including a harness and so on, if not banning such a dangerous activity altogether.

There was a “gap” between A-level exams and the end of the final term. Jack Driver organized school cycle tours to partially fill that space, and I have memories of cycling to Cirencester, Gloucester and Oxford where we stayed in Youth Hostels. Sadly, I cannot remember the names of all the participants. It was all great fun, and I remember that we agreed we would take turns to drop back and accompany Jack who was always well behind the fit young cycling group ahead.

Looking back, I think we were all very lucky – perhaps fortunate would be a better word. Many of us became qualified and went on to successful careers, and this was due in no small measure to the skill and dedication of the staff at HCGS.

Upon leaving school, I joined Babcock & Wilcox, the international engineering company, as a student apprentice. This involved full-time university studies for three years, in my case at London University, followed by two further years of practical training. In all, I spent 32 years with B & W in various roles, both technical and, later, commercial. I travelled widely, spending periods ranging from days to years overseas in visiting a total of no less than 27 countries! Add to that the places I have visited for pleasurable purposes, and the number increases to over 60! Perhaps the most interesting period at this time was when I was in a section known as “Special Investigations” which really meant forensic engineering. I was dispatched at short notice to investigate such things as boiler explosions, combustion problems etc. on both dry land and on steamships at home and overseas. Although interesting, it was socially very disruptive having to travel at very short notice, cancelling holidays and so on. It was a case of “have passport and injection certificates, will travel!” My poor wife spent many a long week alone! Compared with this, commercial work was far less fun.

I must mention that it was on one of those lengthy overseas postings, this time in communist Romania, that I married. This was not straightforward, requiring the permission of the communist government, which took a year, and then another year for the issue of an exit visa and passport for my wife. Of course, my mail was censored and phone calls tapped, and we both became expert in avoiding informers and the evil secret police! This would make a story in itself! We celebrated our 55<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary last November. But times were changing, B & W were taken over in 1989, so I left and joined Slough Estates as Engineering Manager at their private power station in, of course, Slough ... and there I stayed for 15 years, finally retiring in 2004.



Some of my schoolmates might remember that I was a mad trainspotter in HCGS days. Unfortunately, this disease is incurable!

Here I am at Laxey, on the Isle of Man, in 2019, one of my last trainspotting trips not long before Covid struck and put a stop to most of these excursions.

**Jim Ballantyne (1950 – 1957)**



**F**or some time, I have been meaning to write something for the *Old Hendonian* ... but you know how it is – the day-to-day things take precedence over reminiscences.

I came to Hendon County in 1958. I became more involved in the sporting activities than in the academic, but I didn't let this affect me either at the time or when I began work. I thoroughly enjoyed my time at the school, and when I left I thought my involvement with Hendon would cease. However, I met one of my former classmates on the train to London, and he suggested I came to the Old Hendonians' football training on Tuesday evening at Pursley Road.

I was 19 at the time, and I played for the Old Hendonians from then until the age of 51. We had five sides then, so it was easy to gain and maintain a place in one of the sides. I was never the best footballer, but I was enthusiastic and fit. Beginning as a right winger, one day we turned up with four right wingers and I volunteered to play full back. I maintained that position for most of my career with the "old boys." We were a very sociable team and we enjoyed our football. We continued to use the school gym for fitness training and three-a-side during the winter, and Pursley Road during the summer. We played in the NEMEAN League; I continued playing even after a broken leg and removal of a knee cartilage until my 50s, when I qualified as and became a referee. Before the time came to stop playing, I had the great pleasure to play in the same team as my son.

Now in my mid-seventies, I still see several of my old team-mates on a regular basis, and we always reminisce about some of the games we played. I had the pleasure of being on the committee running the club for many years. We often made an appointment to see the headmaster at the end of the season to see if there were any suitable candidates to join the "old boys."

After school days were over, I did insurance work in the City and then latterly joined Xerox, the document company. During my time with them, I travelled to 57 different countries on business, providing a great source of fascinating and exciting stories.

Since retirement, I have a new career. I've become a writer, having written 120 short stories, 97 poems, a novel set in the USA, and three stage plays. I have won various prizes for my writing. This would have surprised my teachers at Hendon, as I never wrote anything until I retired. I lived at Watford until last year when unfortunately my wife died, and I moved to Bournemouth where my children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren live.

**John Ward (1958 – 1963)**





I have more reasons than most to recall my days at Hendon School. Why? Well, my life stood still for a long time just months after I had left the Sixth Form, in 1991, when I contracted a serious illness on holiday from which I have never fully recovered. Which is why – unlike many Hendon alumni – I can list most of my former classmates in 'N' throughout my six years at Golders Rise with ease – Stuart Bean, John Perry, Asgar Dharamshi, Theo Piccos, Raja Nandi, Jason Pollard, Tony Di Trolio, Vincent James, Benson Craven, Nicholas Mureithi, Peter (I forget his surname), Irene Kyrour, Caroline Betts, Fiona Collins, Carrie-Anne Osborn, Lisa Theo and Tinu Odumousu.

They say your school days are the best of your life – and I have to say, looking back, I had an absolute whale of a time.

The first thing that comes into my mind when I think of Hendon School is how much I spent buying hot dogs and hamburgers during the lunch break from the ice cream van which used to park outside the front gates. They cost about 25 pence each!

When I was not spending my lunch money on food, I would be using it to play “Penny Up The Wall” – everyone threw a coin at the wall, and whoever was closest would scoop the pot.

I was relatively chubby back then, but pretty fit. I would play football every single day, either on the big grass area at the back of the school or on one of the many playgrounds.

In the summer, when nets were put up across some of the playgrounds, I would play tennis – it would be no surprise if there were 10 or 11 pupils on either side of the net battling to hit the ball.

If pupils were not playing tennis across a net, they would take turns bashing the ball against a wall. Happy days!

If you were one of the cool kids and / or considered a ‘hottie’ (I was neither!), then you could try your luck with a game of “Spin The Bottle” – you would, er, spin the bottle and have to kiss the person to whom the bottle pointed when it stopped spinning. Who needs Love Island, eh?!

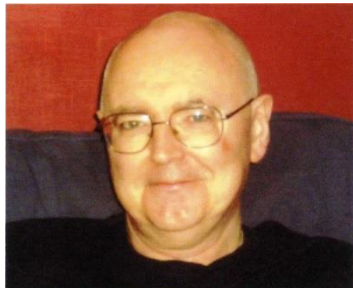


Continuing the sporting theme, I managed to get into the school's football team (mainly because most of the other talented boys could not be bothered to get up early on a Saturday morning to play). My career totalled some 20-odd games. I scored one goal. And yes, I can recall my team-mates, too: Triverdi, Cumine, Nadeem (?), Lopez, Smart, Bean, Di Trolio, Blaney, Scott, Culverhouse.

As for my academic career, I enjoyed most lessons apart from science, biology and woodwork.

I was pretty good at reading from a young age – and it would always give me a boost when Mr Honney let me read chapter after chapter of a book about Greek heroes out loud to the class in Classical Studies.

Mr Honney was, without a doubt, the stand-out teacher for me. He had a temper on him, but I think he would go easy on someone if they misbehaved, so long as he thought they had something about them.



I thrived under him because of the way he gave my ego a boost in class. To this day, I will always give 100 per cent – be it to friends or at work – if I think I'm valued. If you managed to catch Mr Honney away from the classroom, it was an education in itself just listening to him.

A few words about some of my other teachers...

Mr Hewitt tended to rule the place with an iron fist. Most pupils were scared of him. I wasn't, not after an experience I'd had with him away from school.

I was a keen football fan back then, and I'd go to watch Watford play with a school pal, Gary Mellor, and his Dad. At one game, I was, as usual, singing my heart out ... and at one point I turned my head, and there was Mr Hewitt, in his Watford scarf, blasting out the same song from the stands! He winked at me, obviously recognising me from school. From then on, he'd always give me a cheeky smile when he saw me.

I loved Drama classes with Mr Blythe, who wasn't at the school for very long. I tended to get on with the teachers who were happy to have a joke with the pupils and not take things too seriously. I ended up treading the boards at school after being cast as George Mole in a production of *Adrian Mole*. My (stage) wife was Annie Green, while Adrian was played by Chris Morrison. Could there be a recording of this anywhere?

Miss Taylor and Mrs Innes (my French teachers), Mr Kellaway (Geography) and Mr Richards (History) deserve special mention. As does Mr Heath, my English teacher and later Sixth Form head. Mr Heath allowed me to drop French as one of my three A-levels if I promised to do General Studies (at AS level) as well as produce a school magazine – the alternative was having to leave the school. Well, Mr Heath, that decision must have played a part in me forging a career in the media ... so thank you!

I can remember many of my other teachers – Mr Neff, Miss Laycock and Mr Singleton (who always looked like he'd arrived for work five minutes after getting out of bed!) for Maths;

Mr Byatt (who seemed more interested in checking that none of the boys were wearing trainers rather than the curriculum), Mrs Croghan, Mr Murphy and Mr Dowdes (whose breath reeked of coffee – hence the nickname Death Breath Dowdes) for English; Mrs Ewing and Mrs Goldswein (?) for Geography; Mr Nyman (more about him in a moment) for Woodwork; Mr Marshall for Art; Mr Cooper and Mrs Bruce (a lovely woman who I was so sad to read had passed away) for Sociology; Mr Starr for Computer Studies; Mr Oatley (who I recall as an unusual type), Mr George and Miss Stranz for Biology and Science respectively; Mr Hills for Music (he was also my form tutor); Mr Divers and Mr Ward for PE. There was also a crazy Scottish Woodwork teacher whose name escapes me – Mr Scott? – who used to terrorise pupils just by looking at them. He was my form tutor for a year, and just growled at everyone.

Mr Nyman could spend an entire lesson just talking to us about his problems at home. That year in woodwork was all about building the front engine of a small wooden train. I think the whole class got no further than the base and the four wheels, because Mr Nyman was more interested in giving us his opinions on anything and everything.

I formed a good friendship with Mr Richards (Mark) away from school after he noticed we had a shared interest in Barnet Football Club. Along with two of my school mates, Paul Morrison and Marcus Levi, we would travel in his car to games both home and away. Looking back, some might raise an eyebrow at such a thing nowadays. Trust me, it was all above board! He was a wonderful, generous and fun character.

I did not have much to do with any of the heads – I recall Mr Elliston (the less said about him, the better) and Mr Lloyd, whose office I entered only once to be commended over an end-of-term report. I was generally well-behaved but cheeky.

During my time at school, it went grant-maintained – if I recall, the first to do so in England. I can't remember a single thing about this, so it must have had little impact on the pupils.

I was a Library monitor for a period, although I can't remember what, if any, perks were attached to the role ... apart from being the owner of a shiny badge which I'd attach proudly to my blazer.

What I do recall quite vividly is the narrow corridor at the top of the old school building with classrooms on either side. And there must have been 20 flights of stairs to get there! I can also picture the Sixth Form common room in the newer building – it was filled on one side with what seemed like a million lockers. There would be card schools galore in that room, which also housed a 'tuck shop'.



As for my school mates, I didn't really hang around with anyone in particular. I should again mention Marcus, Paul and Gary, as well as Manish Mehta, James Davies, Farima Hasan, Fiona Thompson and Sally-Lloyd Thomas, all of whom played a significant part in making my school life such a joy.

As envisaged in the last issue of the *Old Hendonian*, there has been no shortage of news about the **Hendon Hub Redevelopment** scheme in the past year.

The initial plans for the Hendon Hub – mainly designed to provide student homes and facilities for Middlesex University on Barnet Council-owned sites in The Burroughs, Hendon – were first revealed at a meeting of the council’s policy and resources committee in December 2020.

In the months which followed, the scheme sparked criticism over its impact on residents, heritage and culture. Some 88 per cent of people who responded to a consultation question opposed the plans.



Last June, MP for Hendon Dr Matthew Offord, pictured above, warned there were “serious issues” with the scheme. He shared his concerns in a post titled “Save Historic Hendon.”

In the post, which is available on the MP’s website at <https://www.matthewofford.co.uk/campaigns/save-historic-hendon>, Dr Offord said: “As a local resident of Hendon, I share the many concerns about the proposals for the Hendon Hub.

“I have submitted my response to Barnet Council’s consultation in which I have highlighted serious issues about the scale of the proposals, loss of community facilities, change to heritage buildings, loss of parking and, most significantly, the impact an enlarged university will have on Hendon.”

Dr Offord warned the council’s “vision” for the development contained only passing references to residents, who he believed were being “sidelined in favour of the university.”

He added: “I have serious reservations about the scale of these proposals in what is essentially a residential area, parts of which are designated conservation areas. “It is also the historic heart of Hendon, which is reflected in many of the buildings, particularly St Mary’s Church, properties in The Burroughs and Burroughs Gardens, and the library building.

“I believe the height and design of the buildings proposed for The Burroughs are out of keeping with the historic environment.”



Dr Offord said he shared people’s “genuine dismay and upset” at the loss of the Grade II-listed Hendon Library building to the university, adding he was “unclear as to why the current library space could not be redesigned and updated to accommodate everything being proposed for a new library.” He also said he shared residents’ views that loss of parking was not acceptable, and raised concerns over the environmental impact of the proposals.

While the MP said there was “little doubt that the need exists to replace outdated buildings like those on the Ravensfield / Fenella site,” he claimed the current proposals were “university-orientated, and will do nothing to enhance or blend with the historic nature of the area.”

A Barnet Council spokesman said: “The London Borough of Barnet has received Matthew Offord MP’s feedback to the Hendon Hub proposals, along with that of all those who have responded to public consultation. “We would like to thank everyone who has taken part in the Hendon Hub public consultation and provided feedback on the draft proposals. Our aim is to help residents and students to thrive, delivering facilities and amenities that everyone can benefit from. The project will dramatically improve the look and feel of The Burroughs, creating a pleasant environment that is accessible and able to be used by everyone in Hendon. “The project team have already identified a number of potential changes to be made to the proposals in light of the feedback received, including a reduction in the overall amount of new student accommodation proposed, and the removal of some sites (including car parks on The Burroughs) from the proposals. Heritage and conservation are also topics that the project team have carefully considered, and the refined proposals will protect and enhance the character of the area.”

A few weeks later, a last-ditch bid to hold up the scheme failed after only one Tory councillor opposed the plans.

Labour councillors called for a decision on the full business case for the scheme to be delayed during a full council meeting on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> July, warning against taking a “gamble with residents’ money.” Their call came as campaigners staged a protest outside Hendon Town Hall, chanting “stop the Hendon land grab” and “save our community.”



But Nizza Fluss, a Conservative councillor for Hendon, was the only member of her party to vote against the business case.

Speaking during the full council meeting, council leader Dan Thomas said the proposals were a “major opportunity to improve The Burroughs” and listed changes that had been made to the scheme in response to the consultation.

He said there had been a 26 per cent reduction in student accommodation and pointed out the plans now included affordable housing and a health and wellbeing centre. The library would be relocated to its new home without being housed in a temporary structure, he added.

But Labour leader, Cllr Barry Rawlings, described the development as a “speculative gamble” and called for a delay so the council could work with residents to come up with a “viable and sustainable alternative.” He warned there was uncertainty over future student numbers, construction costs, staff shortages and the effects of any delays.

“We are being asked to vote in favour of a project where there are still a lot of unknowns and no clear picture of what the financial structure will actually be,” Cllr Rawlings said.

“We are stewards of the public purse and should not take such a gamble with residents’ money.”

Cllr Fluss also warned against “rushing into” the project, saying she feared the actual costs of the Hendon Hub would “far exceed” the estimates made by outsourcing firm Capita.

She told the meeting that residents wanted the purpose-built library to stay and to “continue to be the leading library of Barnet.” “We are at a major turning point in education, and the future of learning seems very much

hybrid – online and in-person,” Cllr Fluss said.

“Residents are concerned that the project is for the benefit of Middlesex University, not for them.”

But another Conservative councillor for Hendon, Cllr Mark Shooter, spoke in favour of the scheme, claiming the financial benefits would be “substantial” and help the council “sustain and reduce council tax in the future.”

He claimed Hendon was “crying out for redevelopment” and said the council should help Middlesex University to “get to the next tier.”

“The alternative plans could be, for example, more council estates – and we have got enough council estates in Hendon at the moment,” Cllr Shooter added. “It will take a lot of pressure off houses in multiple occupation.”

Cllr Fluss joined Labour and Liberal Democrat councillors in voting against the business case, while the remaining Tory councillors who were present voted in favour.

Here is an artist’s impression of part of the scheme.



In October, not long after Barnet Council applied for planning permission to redevelop several of the proposed sites, a local resident, Richard Lecoat, began judicial review proceedings against the council following a successful crowdfunding campaign.

Mr Lecoat said: “Having made every effort to get Barnet Council to engage meaningfully with our concerns during the consultations they put us through this year, and with every plea having fallen on deaf ears, residents have no remaining option but to seek justice from the courts.” He added: “We are putting London Borough of Barnet on notice that such brazen disregard of our views will not be tolerated without facing the strongest challenge that we can muster.”

One key claim Mr Lecoat put forward was that the council’s adoption of The Burroughs and Middlesex University Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), which provides guidance for development in the area, was “unlawful” and “should be given no weight in the consideration of planning applications.”

He alleged the SPD identified “an area of significant change” and contained the council’s planning policies in relation to that area, so it should have been prepared as a development plan document (DPD) forming part of the borough’s Local Plan.

Mr Lecoat said DPDs are “subject to far higher levels of scrutiny and rigour” than SPDs, including scrutiny by a secretary of state. He claimed that because the only Local Plan containing policies for the redevelopment of the Hendon Hub area was the one currently awaiting approval, the SPD could not lawfully be considered supplemental to it.

In February – one month after planning permission for the council’s application was granted – a High Court judge gave judicial review the go-ahead, and set a hearing date for June. This has since been adjourned following the local elections in May, and a request by the incoming Labour administration, to have another look at the scheme in the light of residents’ concerns. Mr Lecoat has expressed the hope that the new administration will be more willing to listen to those concerns, and more open to dialogue, than their predecessors.

Also around October, separate plans were afoot to challenge the lawfulness of the Hendon Hub business case, while another resident complained to the Information Commissioner’s Office, alleging the council had withheld financial information about the scheme from public scrutiny.

Barnet Council’s mayor was invited to open a new pedestrian bridge as well as to mark the progress of the construction of apartments.

Councillor Alison Cornelius visited the Boathouse Apartments at **Hendon Waterside** last July, before opening a new bridge in Cool Oak Lane. She was presented with a ceremonial trowel by the developer, and tasked to pour concrete on top of the roof of the development as part of a traditional topping-out ceremony.



Cllr Cornelius said: “The topping-out of the new block at Hendon Waterside is a key milestone in the regeneration of West Hendon. This development is helping to provide much-needed new housing in the centre of the borough which will not only help existing residents, but will also draw new residents and visitors to the area.

“We’re working closely with Barratt London and Metropolitan Thames Valley to ensure that the development adds significant improvement to the area, whilst celebrating and preserving the nearby green space and reservoir.”



A brand-new piazza and Co-op supermarket have also recently opened on site, while the pedestrian bridge over the Welsh Harp Reservoir provides a new route to nearby playing fields and a bowling club. Danny Farenden, Barratt London projects director, said: “Hendon Waterside is playing a huge role in the transformation of Barnet, and we are proud to be at the forefront of this masterplan.

“As the borough continues to evolve to meet its residents’ needs, we believe by working in collaboration with the council, we are delivering much-needed high-quality homes, over a thousand new jobs, and opening up vital green space, to help keep the community thriving.”



Lisa Johnston, head of regeneration projects at housing association Metropolitan Thames Valley, added: “It is fantastic to be able to mark this milestone with our partners at Barratt and Barnet and to see the bridge and amenity area already being enjoyed by residents. “West Hendon is looking great, and we are proud to be working on it.”

The West Hendon regeneration involves building just over 2,000 homes, including 543 affordable homes, along with a community centre and improved transport links.

Barnet Council says the scheme will also deliver a three-form entry community school for around 400 pupils and a nursery.



A street brawl in **Vivian Avenue**, not far from Hendon Central, made national news on 20<sup>th</sup> August last year.



Café workers, seen here using tables and chairs, were defending themselves against a gang of yobs who were harassing female customers, it was claimed.

Bus passengers and passers-by watched on in disbelief as the violence unfolded.

Shocking footage, filmed from the top deck of a bus, showed groups of men picking up the furniture and swinging them above their heads, while others appeared to use tables as a shield.



After an initial flurry, the scrap then spilled off the pavements and into the main road.

A video is available online at

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-9912035/Moment-yobs-hurl-tables-chairs-one-mass-brawl-erupts-north-London.html#v-2085560786250518308>.

The business's co-founder, who asked not to be named, explained: "We had to stop the person who abused a lady sitting in our café with a calm and mature conversation.

"All of a sudden we were told off by the rest of the up to 20 gang members who charged with chairs, and all we could do [was] protect ourselves, covering with tables and chairs.

"From our side, it is an honour for us to defend a lady abused until she was crying, but it is not what we are doing business for, and we expect protection from the police and the [local] authority."

The owner added he'd be starting a petition and complaining to the local MP about the trouble he alleged the gang had caused locally.

**Hendon Town Hall** was lit up orange as part of a London-wide memorial to Sarah Everard and to highlight the action being taken to tackle violence against women.



Barnet Council joined other London local authorities in the tribute on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2021, with the colour orange chosen in line with the United Nations' bid to eradicate violence against women.

Ms Everard went missing on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2021, while walking home after visiting a friend in south London. Her body was found in woodland near Ashford in Kent a week later, and serving police officer Wayne Couzens, 48, from Deal, also in Kent, has since been convicted of her murder.

The death of Ms Everard has concentrated public and political attention on tackling violence against women and girls.

Cllr Roberto Weeden-Sanz, Chairman of the Barnet Safer Communities Partnership Board, said: "We stand for Sarah Everard and all the women who are victims of male violence. Her tragic murder has focused public attention on the unacceptable ever-present threat to the safety and wellbeing of women and girls.

"While Barnet has the second lowest rate of domestic abuse reports among all London boroughs, we will continue to work tirelessly to make Barnet a safe home for every woman and girl who lives, works and studies here. Violence simply has no place in our community.

"The council and the local organisations it partners with will redouble our efforts to prevent violence, improve outcomes for victims and their children, and hold perpetrators to account."

The council's Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) strategy sets out how the council is working with local organisations and the police to prevent violence against women, supporting those affected, and making streets safe for all women and girls.

The council's steps aim at changing attitudes and behaviour that foster violence against women and girls, improving the environment to make it safer for them, and by intervening earlier.

**Parson Street**, north of The Quadrant, was left completely blocked by a fallen tree on 30<sup>th</sup> January, 2021.



A large cedar tree was rooted on a driveway within Parson Street, but for reasons unknown, suddenly fell down.

The police and emergency services were at the scene, and the area was cordoned off. Thankfully, no-one was hurt; however, some vehicles were damaged.

And on the evening of 7<sup>th</sup> October, 2021, **West Hendon Broadway**, along with the M1 motorway and the Thameslink railway had to be closed, following a large fire at a car workshop near the Welsh Harp reservoir.



The **Royal Air Force Museum** and Chelsea Foundation have unveiled new exhibition plans for a Jewish Hidden Heroes project. The partnership was sponsored by former Chelsea FC owner Roman Abramovich, and will support the expansion of the museum's project which will feature a new Bomber Command exhibition at both the Hendon and Cosford sites, launching next year. The new displays will help the museum to continue to raise awareness of the previously untold story of Jewish personnel in the RAF during the Second World War, and the vital role they played in defeating the Luftwaffe in the famous "Battle of Britain," preventing Germany from invading Britain, the last democratic stronghold in Europe, in September 1940.

These heroes joined the RAF from all over the world, to fight against tyranny, racism and antisemitism, fully aware that they risked torture and execution if captured.

The London exhibition is already home to an iconic Avro-Lancaster which was "adopted" in 2020 by Roman Abramovich, pictured here, and the



Chelsea Foundation to commemorate the many Jewish Hidden Heroes of Bomber Command.

New additions to the exhibition will include in-gallery screens exploring the contributions of the personnel to Bomber Command, a small object display with links to the "Hidden Heroes," RAF Museum's online display of objects commemorating both the Bomber Command and Jewish Hidden Heroes, and the Avro-Lancaster will be accompanied by an Augmented Reality interactive experience, sharing the stories of Jewish RAF personnel.

The partnership will also bring to life the Jewish "Hidden Heroes" community outreach programme, which will extend to the wider community through school networks in London.

Maggie Appleton, RAF Museum chief executive, said: "More than ever we need to challenge prejudice in all its ugly forms, and more than ever we need to educate young minds as to the experiences of previous generations – those who suffered as well as those who fought back.

"I am incredibly proud of our partnership with the Chelsea Foundation and the Jewish Hidden Heroes project and hope that it goes some way to challenging the rise of antisemitism and wider racism in society. These are inspiring stories of courage and human spirit which will endure and resonate."

Pictured below, left to right, are: Bruce Buck, Chelsea FC chairman; World War Two RAF veteran Lawrence Seymour "Benny" Goodman; and Sir Andy Pulford, chairman of the RAF Museum.



# DAVID EADON MEETS...



## JAYNE CROGHAN



Jayne Croghan taught English at Hendon School from 1989 to 1999. She is still living in North London and will never wish to live anywhere else, although she also spends a considerable amount of time on the Gower Peninsula in South Wales, near where she grew up. She is active in numerous voluntary endeavours, most of which involve music or cooking and frequently both. She is still an avid reader and loves opera, music in general, theatre, food, wine, travel and long walks. She also spends rather too much time on social media, to the detriment of her half-written novel!



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

I'd wanted to be a teacher for as long as I could remember. Since I had learned to read, I had done so avidly, and I wanted to inspire young people to share my love of literature. After my English degree and my PGCE I did consider other careers – it was the mid-eighties, and many of the teachers in the schools where I did teaching practice were dissatisfied with pay and conditions etc. and were saying, “Don't do it!” I did have a (very) brief foray into retail management with Laura Ashley, but boredom sent me scurrying back to the classroom: I just didn't care sufficiently about floral wallpaper! Teaching has its downsides – but it is never boring!

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

Oooh ... I think I would have to name Tony Davis, who was my head of department at my first school. He offered me my first teaching job and believed in me. He was extremely well-read and vivacious. During my first year he took a sabbatical, and the person who acted head of department in his absence was also inspirational: her name was Dinah, and she was returning to the profession having had four children. She had lived all over the place, and seemed so cool and cosmopolitan to twenty-three-year-old me!

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

I loved the diversity of the students at Hendon. There were so many talented, creative and interesting students, and it was a community where value was placed on achievement other than academic excellence. Academic excellence is obviously important, but not everyone is going to achieve straight 'A' grades, and Hendon encouraged students to flourish whilst demonstrating other strengths. Music was particularly strong, and Trevor Easterfield had forged strong links with English National Opera. As an opera fan, it was always a joy to go to performances which featured students ... and not necessarily just students whose parents would have thought to offer them such opportunities anyway.

There was a great sense of community among the staff, too, and we spent quite a lot of time socialising ... particularly on Fridays when we played badminton, went to the pub and frequently ended up eating pizza in Golders Green!

### ***Which aspect of English teaching did you enjoy most?***

I was fortunate to teach during the period where English Literature was taught through 100% coursework ... and whilst I acknowledge that this might have been open to abuse, the lack of prescriptive texts meant that a teacher could really teach challenging works to talented classes. League tables led to a tendency to teach simpler texts, as it was assumed this would lead to the highest grades – but I think that this might have led to boredom for many of the brightest students. I remember reading Jonathan Swift's satire *A Modest Proposal* with a year 11 class.

I loved taking literary texts and using them as stimulus for discussion and for personal and creative writing. The brilliant thing about teaching English is that through discussion, creative writing and personal responses to literary stimulus, teachers maybe get to know students rather better than they might if teaching other subjects.

### ***Can you recall a particularly amusing incident from your time at Hendon School?***

One summer, we were doing a staff play to perform for the students. It was written and directed by the then Head of Drama, Chris Jones, and was a strange fusion of *EastEnders*, *The Sound of Music* and *Reservoir Dogs* ... yes, really! I was Reservoir Mother Superior in a black leather jacket and a wimple, and with other members of staff (including a very pregnant Rebecca Poole) I was a Bond Girl dancing in the opening scene. Clad as a Bond Girl in black leotard and tights, impossibly high heels and with huge gelled and sprayed hair and scary eye make-up, I headed to the loo and disciplined a student who was chewing as he moved



around the school. He genuinely didn't recognise me in my unorthodox regalia, and asked me who I was and how I knew his name: "I am your English teacher, Adam!"

***If an older teenager asked you for advice on entering the teaching profession, what would you say?***

I would say that it is remarkably hard work but extremely rewarding, that every day is different and it is never boring. I would warn them that they will never go home without feeling that they have work they should be doing – a teacher's desk is never clear – and there will be ups and downs, but they will have the satisfaction of knowing that they have the opportunity to influence and inspire young people to achieve their best.

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

Bob Hewitt was Deputy Head when I was at Hendon: he was very "old school" and a disciplinarian with a heart of gold. I remember how the students respected him and demonstrated their admiration when he retired. Trevor Easterfield ruled the music department, provided remarkable opportunities for pupils as outlined above, and presided over some very memorable concerts ... I still have the programmes!

***Thank you, Jayne, for giving up your time for our Old Hendonian readers!***



*Jayne celebrating a recent birthday with her family*

## REG BECKLEY REMEMBERS



1942 - 1948

On the 24<sup>th</sup> June 1946, I was part of a small group from school bound to the first postwar Wimbledon championships. How I got included in this elite group of: Mr Potts, Miss Davenport, Miss Clake (the P.T. mistress) and the girls' tennis team baffles me to this day.

The transport was provided by Miss Davenport's spacious Lanchester (it may have been Miss Poulton's??) and Mr. Potts' very small Ford, which I was squeezed into. On arrival at the ground, I was directed to the standing area on the Centre Court, whilst the rest departed to their seats elsewhere. Yvon Petra – in long trousers, and eventual champion – opened the tournament: his opponent's name has escaped my memory (I had the programme for some 55 years before selling it on eBay!). Unfortunately, quite soon after the start, the combination of no lunch, considerable heat, and Mr Potts' car petrol fumes caused me to faint, and I was assisted to the fresh air of the outside courts. Some time later, fortuitously, I was reunited with the party by a very agitated Miss Clake. I was a very keen tennis player, and spent many hours slugging it out with Miles Spector on the tennis court at the Holly Mount Club, which was in Station Road. By a strange coincidence, 45 years ago, I was on the same plane as Betty Stöve, vanquished by Virginia Wade, bound for Amsterdam.



Yvon Petra

# MEDICAL MUSINGS



**YEN YEE CHONG (1972 – 1979)**

## EDITOR'S NOTE

*I am delighted that Yen Yee Chong has agreed to my suggestion of a regular slot in the Old Hendonian, starting with this fascinating take on the present state of the NHS, which I suspect may be quite a hot topic for many of us.*

*A practitioner of Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM), Shiatsu and Acupuncture, Yen has been successfully treating patients hands-on in various hospitals and clinics over the past 20 years.*

*More information can be found on his website, <https://www.yen-medical.com>.*

The UK public has always loved its NHS system, which still exists after 75 years in its more or less unchanged post-WW2 Socialist experiment form. But, what's it like on the inside? Two seismic changes affected the NHS: one was the COVID pandemic and the understandable panic to prioritize COVID and drop just about everything – and also Brexit. NHS workforce shortages used to be filled from EU and overseas. The NHS now faces workforce shortages of 100,000 staff.<sup>1</sup> Patients in the NHS hospital waiting list in England hit 6m. Routine care such as knee and hip surgery – 5% of these patients waited over a year.<sup>2</sup>

So – what's going on in NHS hospitals, GP doctor services and the whole healthcare system? Many people are now thinking UK Government NHS priorities are wrong, or it has not invested adequately in the NHS. Support for free healthcare services for the UK nations is still the bedrock of the NHS. Whatever political bent, an NHS budget balancing act has become increasingly complicated – and choices are becoming more unpalatable. Increasing healthcare spending (see DHSC graph next page) could dissuade future governments from throwing money at a big NHS funding problem<sup>3</sup>.

The number of UK older people (65+ years) will increase by 1.6% in 2021-22 to 12.7m, or 18.9% of the population.<sup>4</sup> Ageing is a big problem in richer, developed nations; UK is not alone in finding itself with more old, retired people (65+ years) in its population – as demand for healthcare rockets. So, maybe call on technology for help? GP doctors' treatment targets are being missed (partly due to COVID-19). When the NHS did a stealthy redefinition of "consultation" – cost-effective iPhone and ZOOM PC patient virtual on-

<sup>1</sup> NHS workforce - our position "Workforce and skills", The King's Fund, updated: 23/02/2022

<sup>2</sup> "Hospital waiting lists hit six million in England" BBC, 13/01/2022

<sup>3</sup> <https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk> "Insight" April 2021

<sup>4</sup> Population Aged 65 Years & Over - United Kingdom, IBIS World <https://www.ibisworld.com>, 15 Nov 2021

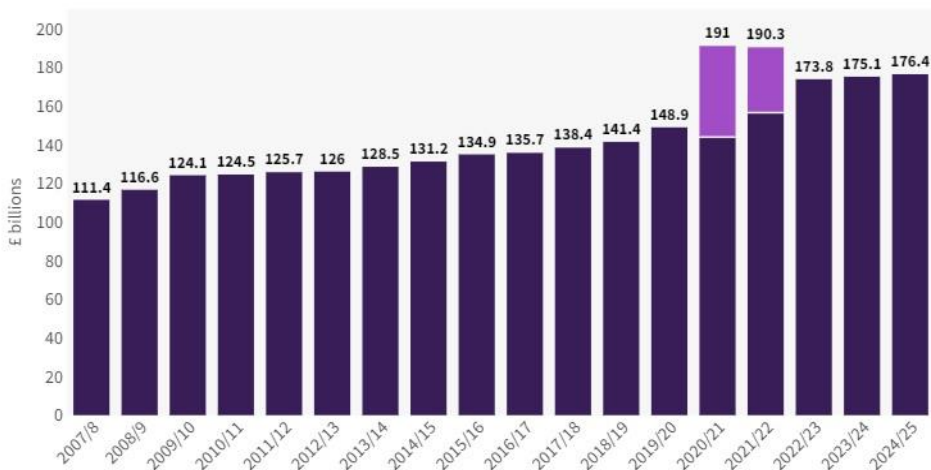
screen viewing “visits” to the GPs are now “consultations” – then NHS GP doctor surgery treatment figures improved.

During the COVID-19 pandemic spending rocketed, so people’s waiting rose for screening and treatment care – the UK patient waiting list rose to 6m. Long term Care (LTC) patients are a big problem for multiple health services (e.g. A&E care, intensive disease management – cancer, cardiac, stroke etc.) as they are so time- and labour-intensive, and a NHS financing headache. One way to bandage the ailing NHS system is to enlist quasi private-run care homes and families / friends who enlist as “carers” to provide in-house treatment for LTC patients. While this may cover official requirements for LTC patients, it is an expedient way of backing up the NHS while paying carers low wages, and it worked for some time until Boris Johnson’s government decided to empty NHS hospital beds of COVID-infected patients and dump them in the care-homes.<sup>5</sup>

## Department of Health and Social Care spending

Real terms in 2021/22 prices, England

■ Core ■ Covid-19



Source: [The King's Fund analysis of HM Treasury data](#) • 2019/20 spending includes £620 million of Covid-19 related NHS spending, which was funded from within existing budgets that year. Direct Covid-19 spending from 2022/23 onwards has not been separately identified yet.

TheKingsFund

Now, the NHS is at the heart of UK politics and passions: most think it should be preserved, and that cost should not be a factor in deciding whether to fund medicines on the NHS. Most agree that standard NHS drugs and medication should be free – most people now pay a fixed subsidised fee for their medication. Still, there will probably be unpalatable “triage” practices that prioritize and assign scarce medical resources. So, will the future NHS punish obese people, chain-smokers and people whose lifestyle knowingly endangers their lives? Hmm... in a COVID national emergency, it’s been revealed that the Government had secret plans to withhold vital hospital care from patients aged over 70.<sup>6</sup> With NHS waiting numbers for treatment 6m and rising, and the standard of perceived medical treatment falling – that is worrying for the UK. It’s a massive

<sup>5</sup> UK: Older people in care homes abandoned to die ... <https://www.amnesty.org> 4 Oct 2020

<sup>6</sup> “Secret proposals to ration care by age”, <https://www.independent.co.uk> Andrew Woodcock, 31 July



problem in the face of tightening budgets, rising costs, an ageing population – and COVID.<sup>7</sup>

NHS KPIs (key performance indicators) are hard-wired for maximum patients treated, fastest processing while following medical SOP (standard operating procedure). It is not necessarily the best healthcare, but the accepted way of meeting NHS reporting standards. Some people feel we should become committed to improve a patient's health and wellbeing.<sup>8</sup> This highlights the difficulty of balancing public expectations with the finite resources available to every political administration elected. NHS funding constraints looked dire – but suddenly COVID-19 opened public purse-strings; while future Governments try to stabilize NHS spending – it is a political football.

Looking forward, complementary alternative medical (CAM) “Soft healing” stimulates the body's self-healing using naturopathic techniques and plants – instead of giving hard drugs and surgery.<sup>9</sup> Ayurvedic medicine of India, or the “bush” medicine of America, Africa, Asia and Australia present themselves. The world and WHO already recognize Chinese TCM and Acupuncture therapies that I practise. Quinine is a Latin American medication treating malaria; Quinoa is a “wonder food” recognized by UN as a potential health benefit.

How to manage the growing demand for healthcare for cancer / cardiovascular / stroke LTC patients? Enter from stage left: Yoga and Ayurvedic medicine. We only show these treatments benefit some patients with cancer, stroke or heart disease – we never say it's a “cure”. A recent medical study of 17 clinics and one hospital proved that: *“Ayurveda intervention, twice a day, effectively controls blood sugar level and improves the disease management with lifestyle modification.”*<sup>10</sup>

In our modern and 24/7 internet-connected world, we are meant to be richer, better educated and capable. A wider choice of CAM medicines (in and outside NHS) will be available for patients. But, some NHS choices are underwhelming, while NHS staff are overwhelmed by work pressure. The NHS has modern drugs, antibiotics, painkillers, MRI and scans; yet there'll be patients who leave hospital or GPs asking: “Is this all the treatment I get?”

According to a report: *“the NHS has lost its prestigious ranking as the best world health system (to 4<sup>th</sup> position)”*.<sup>11</sup>

### **“NHS Quō vādis?” – NHS, where are you going?**

Overall, the UK has a very good publicly-funded healthcare system – it's basically full coverage. The NHS continues to rate highly internationally. But COVID exposed the NHS to severe stresses that neither it nor its boss (the Government) could react to in time. Thus, while UK patients have rights to NHS treatment, yes, even if it can involve an average 6-month waiting time ... this is a sure shoe-in for private healthcare companies to make inroads, using more computers and AI systems, as UK Government aspires to more US-type healthcare reforms in NHS. Funny thing, many people in the USA admire and envy the NHS.<sup>12</sup> NHS – keep on rocking!

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<sup>7</sup> “Covid-19: This is a gamble and not a plan”, Rebecca Coombes, BMJ  
<https://www.bmj.com/content/376/bmj.o71>

<sup>8</sup> “Measuring quality of health care in the NHS” <https://www.health.org.uk> 24 August 2017

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.bmj.com/content/351/bmj.h4645/rapid-responses> Stephen J. Gordon, BMJ Letters, 25 September 2015

<sup>10</sup> “Effect of Ayurveda, lifestyle modification and Yoga”, Ramavtar Sharma et al,  
<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/31831963>, 2019; 40(1): 8-15

<sup>11</sup> NHS drops from first to fourth among rich countries' healthcare <https://www.theguardian.com> 4 Aug 2021

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.businessinsider.com> Politics, 5 Feb 2018

# LETTER FROM THE HEADTEACHER OF RHONA POVEY



**Dear Old Hendonians and Friends,**

It is with great pleasure that I write to you again. Hendon School continues to go from strength to strength, both in terms of student progress and the impact of our wide-ranging curriculum.

We have also focused on improving our school site this year. Following a successful estates fund bid, we secured money to redesign the front entrance of the school. The student toilets previously there have been re-sited off the courtyard, more in the centre of the school. A new cube has extended the reception area and given us a parent meeting room at the front of the school.



At our opening ceremony at the start of May, guests were pleased to see that the original entrance to the school has been restored to its former glory as part of the inside of the new reception area. This now forms the main visitor entrance, with students having their own entrance through the other end of the building.

Our values of *Believe*, *Achieve*, *Lead*, *Belong* remain at the heart of our school community. Hendon School is a very special place. Maya Angelou is famously quoted as saying: “In diversity there is beauty and there is strength”. Whether we are celebrating Diwali, Rosh Hashanah, Eid or Chinese New Year, Hendon School is a melting pot of different languages and cultures. We are proud to welcome students from over 70 different countries around the world, from Cuba to Indonesia. The strength in diversity Maya Angelou talked about comes from our students having friends from across the planet, and from an inclusive education which teaches them how to be successful in an increasingly globalised world. The beauty in diversity is in the sounds of the different languages spoken in our school. Arabic, Farsi, Somali, Albanian, Urdu, Romanian, Polish, Igbo, Twi ... you will hear all these languages and more spoken by both students and staff in Hendon School, and this is what makes us unique. Schools are the perfect place for people to learn about other cultures and to challenge stereotypes – and our school community is proud to do both. Other schools may be multicultural and multilingual, but the diversity of our school is rare elsewhere.

<p><b>Believe</b></p> <p>We support each student to face life, learn confidence, and be ready for whatever life has in store. We help each student to be the person that they want to be.</p>	<p><b>Achieve</b></p> <p>We support each student to realise their full potential in all aspects of life – academic, creative, physical and social. We help our students to always do their best.</p>
<p><b>Lead</b></p> <p>We work together to lead improvement. We recognise the skills and strengths of leadership. Everyone has a part to play in the future of our Hendon School community.</p>	<p><b>Belong</b></p> <p>We connect with others to build effective and harmonious relationships within school and our wider community. At every stage we aim to develop shared values.</p>



Earlier this year, Montell ‘Monty’ Douglas joined and led female students from Hendon School in years 7, 8, and 9 in group circuits and discussions. Douglas is a former sprinter and ex-British record holder for the women’s 100 metres. In 2017 she took up bobsleigh and became part of Great Britain women’s two-woman bobsleigh team. Douglas works for Sports for Champions (CIC), a non-profit organisation that collaborates with pro athletes and Team GB Olympians, working with youths across the nation to inspire and educate the next generation of athletes. The students said that Douglas was ‘down to earth’ and ‘easy to talk to’, as she led fitness circuits and engaged with the children every step of the way,



which in turn helped keep everybody positive and engaged. During the presentation, the Olympian discussed her upbringing in a sporty family and how she developed her love for all things track, until her High Jump days came to an end with a bulged disc in her back at age 14. She went on to share what it was like growing up in a world where she saw very little representation of people of colour in sports, which pushed her to achieve her goals even more.



In March our Senior girls, along with four of our very talented Year 10 players, went to play East Barnet in the Netball League play-offs. It was a nail-biting four quarters from start to finish, with Hendon dominating the scoreline for the first three quarters. East Barnet came into the lead for the first time in the fourth quarter, moving ahead to 12-9, and with the attack not quite securing the ball into the circle, we felt it slipping away. However, the defence was solid, and the attack got it together in the last five minutes. With us scoring five very quick goals, and our defence not conceding

another goal, the final score was 14-12. The girls' work ethic was outstanding, as was their attitude on court towards their team mates and the other players. We were very proud!



Steps 2 Success is an initiative funded through the John Lyon's charity that we have introduced to Hendon this year. The focus of this bespoke programme is to offer students who need it, an opportunity to improve behaviour for learning and capacity to be successful in stressful situations through a series of interventions. The programme offers a number of pathways for students depending on their social and behaviour needs, and utilises high quality teaching and learning with mentoring and behaviour improvement strategies focused on students' individual needs. The core focus of the Steps 2 Success programme is to develop students holistically, by building skills and empowering students to fully access the curriculum and build social links.



The articles above are taken from this year's EGG magazine, an annual publication written and edited by students to share their thoughts and ideas. The corona chronicles pages reflect ideas from lockdown period, and is a collaboration between the photography and dance departments.

The Year 11 Photography class visited Autograph Gallery in London's East End to be inspired by the exhibition *Care Contagion Community*, which showed artists from diverse ethnic backgrounds responding visually to the Covid lockdown. The gallery curator Bindi Vora (a former Hendon School A-level student) gave an introduction to the artwork on display. Our students were a real credit to the school, showing an excellent attitude during the gallery visit and the street-based location photoshoots. As



part of their follow-up projects, they researched the artists' intentions and have created images that reflect their own emotional experiences of lockdown.

Hendon School again took part in the annual *Step into Dance Battle*, hosted by the Royal Academy of Dance and the Jack Petchey foundation programme. Our crew demonstrated a high level of skill and fundamentals breaking as well as unique individuality and professionalism throughout the competition. The event is inclusive and celebrates all genres of hip-hop. Breaking is one of the hardest dance disciplines, requiring relentless training, focus and perseverance. The students had an amazing time, and got to know people from other schools and colleges as well as a variety of professionals from the industry.



In November, we were very fortunate and privileged to have a former Hendon School student, Fred Varley, visit us to give us a talk about his interesting work as a scientist. Fred is a trainee radiation physicist who amazed us with his fascinating work. He spoke about how he uses particle physics to diagnose and treat cancer, and intrigued us with the technology that he was using. It brought to life the concepts and ideas students had been learning in science, for example, using anti-matter to create images of people's organs and ultrasound to produce videos of internal human structures in real-time.

We are always pleased to hear from past students; they have great experiences and stories to tell to current students, and we love finding out about what our school was like in the past. Outside our new parents' room, we are going to display pictures of our school history from the extensive archive that Trevor Easterfield, and more recently Alan Freedman, have curated.

Wishing you all the very best

Rhona Povey

Headteacher, Hendon School

## FROM THE SCHOOL ARCHIVIST

Your Archivist records grateful thanks to **Dr John Barr** (1948 – 1955), the grandson of the school's first headmaster, for providing a report and picture of the opening of the school in September 1914 from the Hendon and Finchley Times, a copy of which could well feature in a future edition of the *Old Hendonian*.

We must remember this only represents the icing on a particularly precious cake.

The school archives could in no way be considered complete without the significant collection of vintage pictures Dr Barr so kindly provided several years ago to our previous archivist, Trevor Easterfield. These pictures go back to the school's earliest days, and include not only the original buildings, headmaster and staff, but also groups of students, sports teams, events and the like.

From that collection, a number have been chosen to go on display in the newly-opened Visitor Entrance area at the front of the school, to give anyone potentially interested a perspective of our history.

Grateful thanks also go to **Pauline Malkiel, née Donbrow** (1957 – 1964) for various copies of the school magazine from her time; various photos of her class over the years, complete with all names; a photo and programme from the production of a play, *The Yellow Jacket*, in April 1962; and guidance for parents, girls' rules and Speech Day Report for 1963.

Many thanks, in addition, to everyone else who has provided digitised copies of material by email over the past twelve months.

These valuable donations to the school archives are greatly appreciated.

Look out for future distributions of carefully selected material from the archives, as and when time and opportunity permit!

*Alan Freedman*

Please send all communications to:

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**c/o Hendon School, Golders Rise, Hendon, London NW4 2HP**  
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OBITUARIES

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.

**Flora Sheringham, née Abraham (1962 –1965)** passed away on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2021.  
**Ken Sheringham (1958 – 1965)** – her husband of over 50 years – writes:

Flora was born on 20<sup>th</sup> December 1946 in what was then called ‘Calcutta’, India, to Moselle and Isaac Abraham, who were part of a community of British Jewry of Babylonian origin. She and her brother Reuben



came to England with their parents in 1962, and Flora came part-way into the GCE O-level years at HCGS, bringing with her what one of her contemporaries – **Chris Kaufman** – called ‘a touch of colour, of exoticism, the like of which few of us had encountered before’.

With a background in the performing arts, Flora was immediately involved in the artistic life of the school, including productions of *The Yeomen of the Guard* and *The Fire Raisers*, perhaps most notably as Dido in Purcell’s *Dido and Aeneas*, pictured here.



As I did, she sang in the Choir, including in our concerts on the Berlin exchange run by Gertie Stranz. (Flora and I returned to Berlin recently, hooking up with the son of the family with whom I’d stayed more than 50 years before). After sciences in the sixth form, Flora applied to London medical schools, only to be told that, had

she been male, they would have been pleased to accept her. Instead, she studied Biology and Physiology (at Chelsea), we were married in 1969 (Dick Coldwell was best man), and we both qualified as teachers the following year.

After a couple of years as a Secondary science teacher, Flora had three children – in fairly quick succession – and, once they were ‘up and going’, decided to retrain (at Bedford) as a teacher of Dance. This led her, in terms of theory, to a Masters (at Nottingham) and, practically, to teaching classes in ‘movement’ to adults and children, which in turn led her into a career in the education of under-fives and their parents. She went on to lead the Family Learning Service in Cambridgeshire, with distinction, eventually chairing its national association.

Locally she ran playgroups, chaired patients’ associations, and was generally a force for good, notably when diagnosed with breast cancer. Then she threw herself into organising conferences and support groups, in publicising its charities – both locally and nationally – in personally assisting research programmes and, as patient representative, interviewing prospective radiologists for the City University, London. She remains vividly present in her family, her children and grandchildren. We feel privileged to have had her in our lives, albeit all too briefly. For myself, I bless HCGS for bringing us together. Farah, her Arabic name, means ‘joy’. It was appropriate.



*Prefects c.1964 – Flora middle row, far left*

**Myra Wass, née Grundy (1947 – 1952)** died peacefully on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2022 at Stoke Mandeville Hospital. She was 86, and despite the onset of dementia in her later years, she remained physically fit for her age and never gave up on life.

What follows is adapted from what was said at her funeral service.

Myra was born Frances Myra Grundy on 30<sup>th</sup> August 1935 in Farnham, Surrey, where she grew up with her brother Douglas. Her upbringing was pretty tough. The family moved from Surrey to Norfolk because of the war, and later to Hendon, where she worked for Cadbury Schweppes checking bottles of drink for glass splinters in order to provide for the family.

Myra and her husband John first settled down in Hendon, where she gave birth to two boys, Steven and Gary. From Hendon they moved first to Eastcote and then to Bletchley, where they bought their first house; and again, Myra helped support the family by becoming a mobile hairdresser.

Their family grew with the birth of Blaine; and in 1967, when the opportunity arose, they bought a house in the village of Stewkley, which was to become the family home for over fifty years. It was their first experience of village life, and they were surprised to find that there was no lock on the front door when they moved in. Apparently, the builder told them no one had them in the village in those days.

Myra and John were well travelled. They had some wonderful adventures on their holidays together, to destinations like Jamaica, Bali, Thailand and Malta.

Myra and John worked well together as a couple, in that he was the outgoing type, making connections, getting to know people and making things happen, whilst she was the modest and unassuming housewife with quite a low profile, but kept everything running smoothly in the background, supporting all the family in whatever way was needed. She was always very patient when supporting some of John's madcap schemes – including breeding canaries, owning part of a racehorse, becoming a bookmaker, racing greyhounds and owning a pet ferret called Freddie.

This supporting but essential role, consistently doing the little things well, was where she placed herself and where she seemed most comfortable – in the engine room rather than up on the bridge.

At a party, she'd always be helping out in the

kitchen, and as she didn't drink when the family went out together, she'd take the role of designated driver.

Myra was the lynchpin of the family, raising the boys on her own when John spent many years working in the Shetland Isles and Nigeria in order



to give the family a good standard of living.

She wasn't what you'd describe as a fluffy and cuddly mum, but instead she showed her love in other ways – for example, instilling high moral standards and a good understanding of what was right and wrong. Good manners were expected at all times, and the value of things was made clear as the children had to earn any pocket money that came their way.

She was a very good cook, and in particular a fabulous baker. Her fruit cakes and lemon meringue pies were to die for, and she also made Steven's wedding cake.

Myra had five grandchildren: Krystelle, Thomas, Phillipa, Ollie and Hannah. Myra and Krystelle in particular spent a lot of time together when she was little, as her grandparents were able to look after her whilst Gary and his wife Martine continued to work.

To relax at home, she always loved knitting, and was extremely skilled and speedy with her needles. She made many jumpers and things for the boys, not always the height of fashion but practical nonetheless, as well as woollen toys and all sorts of other things for family and friends over the years. Her dog-shaped draught excluders became very popular, and everyone wanted one! She had a soft spot for animals and wildlife, and got a lot of pleasure from the various family dogs, including her and John's greyhounds.

It was the same with the birds in the garden. They



got so used to Myra feeding them that they'd peck on the windows for food and would even fly inside sometimes.

Myra was first diagnosed with dementia in 2016, and eventually had to move into a care home. In the process, her enhanced recollection of childhood experiences and her ability to recall, with absolute clarity, her daily journey to and from school in Hendon, amazed her close family, who learned things about her they'd never known before. She also managed to completely blank out the loss of John some seven years earlier, and would talk about him in the present tense, without any distress, anxiety or pain.

Her behaviour changed too, and from nowhere she suddenly developed a razor-sharp and witty sense of humour. She would have her carers in fits of laughter when she verbally and physically mimicked one of the other residents, and she would often reply to a question in a way that left options for further discussion limited.

Her family began to suspect that, far from being new behavioural traits, these were ones she had suppressed for most of her life, and had simply been lying dormant; and that, as a youngster, she had probably been far more outgoing than they realised.

So, even though Myra's illness may have robbed them of the mother they had known, it gave them an insight into a mother they had previously not.

**Tony Lee** recalls: I first met Myra at St. Mary's junior school. She lived just across the road from the school and next to St. Mary's Parish church where the Hendon County School choir sang at least one carol service. I know because Brian ("Hawks") and I were members. We were "Old Hendonians" then, and they wanted a few bass, or in my case BASE voices to help out.

I can still remember when Mr. Western gave the signal for the sopranos to stand, Brian and I rose with them before he gave us an un festive stare as we slowly sank back into our seats. I bet he was thinking about playing "Sit down, you're rocking the boat" as a reprise. I guess we were thinking about the Greyhound pub next door which was to be our next port of call.

**Philip Churcher** has kindly provided the pictures which follow.

Here is Myra (far left) with Phil and another old classmate, Valerie Straughan, on a trip to Henley



Royal Regatta in the 1970s. Myra and Valerie were close friends, and remained so until they had to give up driving.

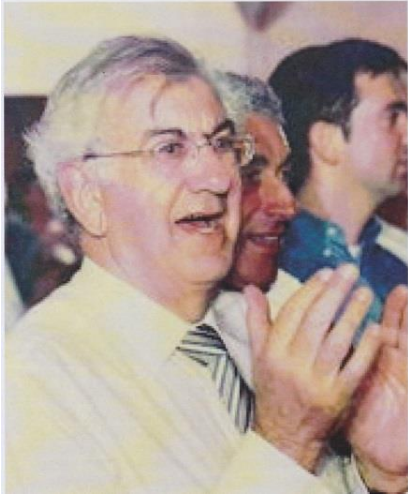
The next, below, was taken at a tea hosted by Rhona Povey, far left, in her office during a visit to the school by Myra, second from right, and some of her old classmates, towards the end of 2016.



**Leo Abeles (1948 – 1955)** passed away on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2022. Born on 11<sup>th</sup> February 1937 in London to German refugee parents, Resha and Yakov, Leo was proud of the fact that although he was born in Britain, he was actually "made" in Germany. His family were members of a well-known synagogue in Golders Green ("Munks") which had a profound effect on his life.

Leo's knowledge was encyclopaedic, particularly when it came to music, French, politics, and religious matters.

He came to Hendon County from Wessex Gardens primary school. After graduating at LSE, Leo travelled to Canada for a year or so and considered emigrating, but returned to London where he qualified as a chartered accountant. He worked for a couple of firms specialising in tax affairs before setting up on his own in Golders Green.



Leo married Margi in 1968 and settled in Muswell Hill a couple of years later with their firstborn,

Simon, where they would bring up their family and become an integral part of the local community. He was known to be generous to a fault for any charity giving, and regularly led the services at the Muswell Hill Synagogue as well as taking an active part in its management. Courteous and respectful to one and all, Leo was a great family man blessed with a very happy marriage, three sons all highly successful professionally, twelve grandchildren, and several great-grandchildren in addition.

Last year's obituaries included **Rabbi William ("Willy") Wolff (1940 – 1943)**, who passed away on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2020.

**Stanley Rosenthal (1946 – 1951)**, whose father was the Beadle of the Hendon Synagogue, Raleigh Close, for many years, recalls: My father retired in 1967 after thirty years at Raleigh Close and moved with my mother and brother to live close to myself, my sister and our respective families in Kenton where he was a stalwart of the local synagogue until his death in 1974, when I received a charming letter of condolence from Rabbi Willy Wolff who remembered the help that my father gave to him when he first arrived at Hendon Synagogue in 1940. For me it brought back memories, as I can still remember Willy Wolff when he came to the synagogue (I was six years old at the time).

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

**Frank Williams**, who achieved fame as the vicar Timothy Farthing in *Dad's Army*, passed away on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2022. More detail to follow in next year's issue.



FORM 1A – 1953 / 54 ... with thanks to Aubrey Eastham



## UPPER SIXTH FORM YEAR PHOTO 1966 / 67

**Back row:** Bernard Glicksman, Andrew Samwell, Michael Isaacson, John Cookson, Michael Craggs, Jun Asahina, Miles Mandelson, Jim Romanos, Tony Zucker, Steve Pettitt, Robert Hurst, Philip Mace, Barry Stekel, David Lister.

**Third row:** Punkaj Shah, Stephen Bober, Roger Barbour, Ray Buzzard, Stephen Johnson, Tony Fisher, Michael Levine, Richard Glyn, David Laitner, Keith Lester, Tim Harrison, Leon Grunberg, Andrew Weiner.

**Second row:** Barbara Brigden, Zena Gibson, Viv Goldsmith, Ann Otten, Judith Philip, Sally Rose, Celine Dwek, Karen Arbuckle, Ruth Hirschman, Ilana Goldman, Geraldine Max, Vivien Altman, Sally Lewis, Linda Sherry.

**Front row:** Soraya Ismail, Nita Shatz, Susan Harvey, Joanna Goody, Mr S. H. Clark, Mrs B. B. Oxbury, Mr R. Stallwood-Betts, Monica El Eini, Laura Herrmann, Paloma Raychbart, Joyce Bijwe.

**Not in photo:** Shirley Benjamin, Gillian Berkin, Hazel Birney, Susan Clarke, Ann Hewitt, Stephanie Levene, Andrea Pack, Sandra Pressman, Jane Ridout, Michele Scott, Marion Simmons, Sylvia Weiss, Ian Fishman.

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

# HENDON SCHOOL



*Photo:  
Frank Cooper*

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## 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, 2022



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and do not necessarily reflect those of the editor or of the school