



Class of 2023

THE WESTWOODIAN 2023

Westwoodians' Association Newsletter for Former Pupils and Staff of



WESTWOOD
HOUSE
SCHOOL



The
Peterborough
School



PETERBOROUGH
HIGH SCHOOL



Are you in contact with other Former Pupils and Former Staff?

If you are, can you please ask them if they have been in touch and given us their permission to contact them. The General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR), specify we must have explicit consent ('opt in') before we can contact anyone.

If they haven't given their consent and they would like to receive information from us, they can either:

Complete the '*Alumni Contact Consent Form*' on the School's website www.thepeterboroughschool.co.uk in the Alumni section in the '*Stay in Touch with the Alumni Group*' page.

OR

Email Alumni@tps.ch.co.uk advising whether contact can be made by *telephone, email or post* and including all contact details



Westwoodians' Reunion 2024



INVITES

Members and their families to be their guests at the

REUNION

**Saturday 29th June 2024 at
The Peterborough School**

2.00pm – *Registration and Welcome with Cream Teas,
- Raffle and Summer Drinks Bar (cash only)*

3.30pm *Tours of the School*

Alternatively, if you would like to sit and chat, the Refectory will be open all afternoon.

5.00pm *End of Tours*

EVERYONE WELCOME, FROM ALL YEARS

**If you are planning a 'special' reunion, please get in touch
and we will do everything we can to help with the arrangements.**

**To help us organise the Reunion, please let us know as soon as
possible, and by 24th May at the latest if you wish to attend by
emailing Alumni@tps.ch.co.uk**

5.00pm *PTG BBQ (payment) and Family Rounders*

*After the Reunion everyone is welcome to join the PTG BBQ and Family Rounders
on the front pitch. The PTG bar will be open throughout the event.*



I would like to welcome you to this year's edition of 'The Westwoodian' the Peterborough School Alumni, Westwoodians' Association Newsletter and to thank all those who contributed to it.

The Nursery continues to go from strength to strength, remaining ever popular, under the leadership of our new Nursery Manager, Mrs Auston. Governors reflected this with ambitious plans for expansion and work began in the Spring to increase numbers from 57 to 81 full time equivalent places. This work was completed during the summer holiday and we accepted our first children into the new room in September 2023.

Last October, we welcomed over 800 pupils and guests to Peterborough Cathedral for our annual Speech Day and Prize Giving, during which our special guest, Professor Ross Renton, delivered an inspirational address wherein he challenged students to overcome the obstacles that they might face in life. Professor Renton is the Principal of Peterborough's new university.

During Speech Day, we celebrated the excellent progress of our Prep School pupils alongside an outstanding set of GCSE and A Level results in the Senior School, and my congratulations go to all pupils throughout the School on their achievements, especially Upper Sixth Leavers who, having never sat public exams before, and partially studied for their A Levels during the past lockdowns, performed exceptionally well.

As we began a year free of restrictions, it was especially pleasing to welcome parents back into School to events, including our Harvest Festival, Carol Service and our Preparatory School Advent

Celebration. After Easter, we held our annual Confirmation Service, and we were delighted to welcome so many parents and supporters of the students being baptised or confirmed.

After a very busy start to the year, with so many wonderful clubs and fixtures, pupils continued to enjoy the opportunities to go out on visits, whether it was Year 1s to Peterborough Museum, or Reception children off to Sacrewell Farm and Notcutts Garden Centre. Year 6 had an opportunity to wear something a little different too as they all dressed up as evacuees and headed off to Stibbington to experience life as a school child in the war.

For the first time since the pandemic, our skiers ventured abroad and enjoyed a wonderful holiday just before Christmas. Students in Years 7 - 11 enjoyed their Football and Netball weekend; they returned very tired, but very happy with their excellent performances. Year 4 and 5 thoroughly enjoyed the highly anticipated Hilltop residential and Year 6 the Bushcraft adventure. I have thoroughly enjoyed attending concerts and plays throughout the year, including Year 3's and 4's wonderfully entertaining performance of 'You are Special'; the singing and acting was superb and there were more than a few quiet tears shed in the audience - very well done everyone, including the teachers, for all their hard work. The cast and crew of 'Arthur King' performed superbly. The show received rave reviews! It was very funny and showcased an array of wonderful performances. In November, we held an act of Remembrance in School, with Staff and pupils in Years 4 to 13 gathering at the flagpole. Father Toby led proceedings with readings and prayers led by students and staff. We were joined by the staff, Mr Dharamraj, Mr Lang and Mr Green, who all served their Country. In January we commemorated Holocaust Memorial Day with a moving assembly led by Mrs Buxcey and her Lower Sixth Philosophy group, with Music Scholar, Megan Wilkinson, playing at the conclusion of this moving reflection.



In June, we celebrated Diversity week with a Pentecost service, celebrating our many different languages and cultures, and a range of cultural visits taking place in the Senior School. We were delighted to commission the painting of a mural by street artist, Nathan Murdoch, led and designed by students, supported by the Westwoodians' Association and Centre 33, as part of the redevelopment of the 'quad'. Pupils have been busy throughout the year, raising funds for our chosen School charity, The Peterborough Soup Kitchen and other worthwhile causes, raising an incredible eight and a half thousand pounds. My sincere thanks to everyone for these superb efforts. Our annual Appeals Day concluded with House Battle of the Bands – well done to Spencer House on a well-deserved win.

In the Summer, we celebrated the crowning of King Charles III with a Coronation lunch, street party style, culminating with the planting of a beautiful magnolia tree to mark the occasion of the Coronation. Whilst there has been much to celebrate this year, we were, of course, saddened at the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and took time to reflect on her life of service. We also said a very sad farewell to Mrs Cohen, teaching assistant in the Prep School, at a very moving and lovely service at Marholm Church, led by Father Toby. She will always be in our thoughts and prayers.

WELCOMES AND FAREWELLS

In September, it was a pleasure to welcome Mr Apweiler as Teacher in Charge of Biology and Ms Collins as Teacher of English. Mr Stevenson joined as Teacher in the Sports Department.

We offer our thanks to Mrs Graves, Miss Khan and Ms Briskman who joined us for the year covering for Mrs Shang, Miss Johal and Mrs Brookes during their respective maternity leaves. Mrs Law joined the School as a relief teacher in December.

In January our Head of Languages, Mrs Wagner-Lees, left to take up the role of Assistant Headteacher and we thank her for the energy she brought to Languages. We wish her well in her promotion. Mrs Baxter, who has been teaching

part-time in the Prep School, also left at the end of the year to take up a full-time role. Mrs Paleoca, who joined as Head of Languages and as a Spanish expert, leads our change to offer Spanish and French in the future.

We expanded our counselling service for pupils, when Miss Hanif joined last year and she now moves to YPCS, as Mrs Lay increased her hours from May to support the needs of pupils. In the Art Department, we said farewell to Miss Prebble who, as Art Technician, had embraced teaching and left to take up the role of Head of Art, Design and Technology at a prep school. We welcomed Mrs Breeze to the department in the Summer term.

In the Music Department we welcomed Mrs Leyton-Smith to teach classroom music part time, in addition to teaching individual cello lessons.

In the Preparatory School, we said a fond farewell to Mrs Green at the start of the year and, in October, to Mrs Penniston; both had made a long-lasting impression on the children they have supported, Mrs Penniston having started her long career with us in the Nursery. During the year we welcomed Mrs Lang, Mrs Lamb, Miss Kauser, Mrs Carter and Mrs Parker as Teaching Assistants. We said farewell to Mrs Brennan, who has worked to support so many aspects of the School as Teaching Assistant and Aftercare Supervisor. She was always so very willing to step in to help whenever required and shall be missed.

Following the retirement of Nursery Manager, Mrs Bellamy, we welcomed Mrs Auston to the Nursery as our new Manager. We wished Deputy Manager, Miss Kauser well as she left last summer to begin her teacher training in Manchester. We welcomed Miss Scott, Miss Yasir and Mrs Pakamanyte-Lisunova to the Nursery team, whilst we said farewell to Miss Mitchell.

Following the retirement of Mrs Clark, we welcomed Mr Green as our new Operations Manager, Mrs Kett joined the School Office team and Mrs Short joined as our new Admissions Officer. We wished our Head of Marketing well as she moved onto other opportunities. Miss



Abbott left at the end of the academic year; as our Academic Administrator she went above and beyond, supporting lunch duties and taking on the supervision of our Homework Club.

On the Domestic Team we said farewell to Mrs Walling and welcomed Mr Bryant. We wished Mr Rossall well as he left the IT Department to move back into industry and welcomed Mr Marsh as his successor.

Miss Kaminska joined as our new Assistant Chef and, this summer, we said farewell to Head Chef, Mrs Darley, who left to join a local primary school. Mrs Darley first joined the School in 1999 and has seen a number of changes including the move to the Refectory in 2007. Mr Linley left after many years' service to the Estates Team and Mr Philips retired as one of our minibus drivers. We welcomed Miss Dean to the team, whilst Mr Snell and Mr Mash joined the minibus team.

At the end of the Autumn term, we said farewell to our Gap Tutors Miss Holt and Miss Nadeson as they returned home. They were involved in so many different aspects of the School with virtually all pupils. In January, we welcomed their successors, Miss Burgess and Miss Murden. They both settled in superbly, supporting all areas of the School, and we hope they have a wonderful year with us.

Our Head of Social Sciences, Mr Dyer, left at the end of the Summer term and can look back on an excellent record of success in the last eight years. He led the department to success with outstanding results at A Level.

We said farewell to Father Toby at the end of the year, as he returned to Australia with his family, and thank him for his contributions to the School during the last 7 years, during which time he has taken the Chaplaincy forward, improving services with greater involvement of pupils.

As we reached the end of the academic year, we offered a significant vote of thanks to those staff who were retiring. In the Science Department, we thanked Mrs Albon for working diligently and reliably to support the practical work of pupils,

working safely in the laboratories for 13 years. Mrs Skelton retired from teaching this summer after 15 years working within the Preparatory School and beyond. Mrs Mason retired from the School this summer, after 16 years of dedicated service during which she has undertaken a variety of roles in the School, all of which she has held with passion and dedication, although remains in touch as a relief teacher.

The year has been a bumper year for babies. Mrs Maile, in the Nursery, gave birth to her daughter Elsie Rose and Mrs Shang welcomed Samuel to her family. Mrs Burgess welcomed Tiffany Louise last summer. Congratulations to Miss Johal, who gave birth to baby Zora and to Mrs Brookes who welcomed Clara in September. Mrs Young welcomed her baby boy, Xavier, in November. Mrs Munir in the Nursery married this year and also gave birth to baby Adam. Mrs Irvine married this year too and she gave birth to a baby girl, Rosa.

In other news, we congratulated Nurse Fee who, after 30 years of competing for the title, was crowned the Ladies World Conker Champion in the annual World Championship event. To say that Nurse Fee was thrilled would be an understatement and we are all, of course, super proud of her achievement.

Finally, I hope you enjoy reading this Newsletter and we look forward to seeing you at the Reunion in June when I hope to catch up with you and hear about all your news.

With my very best wishes,

Headmaster

Chairman's Letter



Dear Westwoodians

We are so excited to be holding a Reunion next year on Saturday 29th June 2024. The format for the Reunion will remain the same with complimentary cream teas, a raffle and a cash bar; followed by tours of the School. We really hope that you will be able to join us and see how much the School has evolved. As always, you are very welcome to bring your families. Please invite any past pupils or staff you are in contact with and let us know who will be coming by emailing Alumni@tps.ch.co.uk. In addition, if you are celebrating a 'special year' or would like to organise a 'special group' please let us know and we will do everything we can to make it as memorable as possible.

I would like to give huge thanks to the Committee Members for the support and work they do over the year – their time and input are what make hosting our Reunions possible.

We have had some movement again within the Committee this year. Antonia Scott left her post in the School at Easter; however, Ivana Zizza has rejoined our team, and we are so very delighted to have her and all the hard work and creativity that she brings. We are also very glad to have Wendy Short and great thanks go to her for all her work on the Newsletter this year and on updating our contact list following the GDPR regulations. If you email Alumni@tps.ch.co.uk Wendy will likely be the person to respond to you. Sadly, Jane Swales has left the Committee due to her numerous other commitments. We are grateful to her for all the years she has been with us on the Committee, and we are very sad to see her go. She has promised to return for the Reunions though! We are delighted however, to welcome Mrs Mason. Mrs Mason retired in the summer but has agreed to return as a supply teacher, and she has joined the Westwoodians' Committee from September 2023. You can read about her story in this Newsletter. We are always looking for new members to join our Committee and if you are interested in joining our Committee, please do email us on Alumni@tps.ch.co.uk.

Some Committee Members visited the School for Appeals Day this year and we really enjoyed walking around the School and seeing all the fun activities and fundraising that was taking place. We also held a Coffee Morning with the Sixth Form, which happened to take place on World Book Day. It was

wonderful to chat to pupils but also to see them in their fancy dress!

The Westwoodians' Association often donates funds to the School and has supported many fundraising projects. This year we donated £1000 towards the new Diversity Mural on the side of the Art Block. The mural was painted with the theme of diversity and inclusivity, and we are honoured and delighted to see the Westwoodian crest within the painting. Please do come to the next Reunion and see the mural. It is a beautiful and moving piece of art that hugely enhances the School and great thanks go to Lillie Young, Deputy Head Girl and Tahaa Sohail, Deputy Head Boy, for organising its creation and allowing us to be a part of it.



Westwoodians' Committee Members with Headmaster, Adrian Meadows, Westwoodians' Prefect 2023, Zain Ahmed and Heads of School, Isobel Liddle and far right Ikheng Pagiwa

Lastly, I was asked to give a speech at the Year 6 Leavers' Service this year. It was a very emotional service. We don't usually focus on the preparatory leavers, but it reminded me that any leaver, not just the Sixth Form, hopefully chooses to become a Westwoodian when they leave the School. I would therefore like to ensure that all past pupils and staff know that they are always welcome at our Reunions. Regardless of when they left or how long they were at the School we will always be delighted to hear from you and see you. Whenever you leave the School you have the opportunity to join the Westwoodian family and we very much hope that you will come back and visit us again.

We hope that you enjoy reading the 2023 Newsletter. If you have any comments or if you would like to update us on where you are and what you are doing, please do get in touch with us at Alumni@tps.ch.co.uk.

Vicky Axe, Chair

TPS Alumni, Westwoodians' Association Committee 2022-23



President

Adrian Meadows
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Victoria Axe 2001
Email: alumni@tps.ch.co.uk

Vice-Chair

Margaret Hope (Hurn) 1971

TPS Alumni, Westwoodians' Association Secretary & Assistant

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Wendy Short



Committee Members

Angela Axe 2014
Hannah Baker (Darby) 2006
Gwen Biddle-Edwards (Hardy) 1956
Ross Cameron – Deputy Headmaster
Micheala Drazek 2013
Hannah Garford (Swales) 2007
Chris King 2019
Julia Lamb (Jelley) 1983
Gemima Snowden (Mackney) 2008
Ros Mayle 2017
Patricia Reid 2010
Jane Swales (Samworth) 1968



Honorary Members 2022/23

Head Girl – Sarah Allen
Head Boy – Benjamin Meadows
Westwoodians' Prefect – Megan Wilkinson

***If you would like to become a Committee Member, please contact the Secretary.
As a Committee member, we look for attendance at the Committee Meetings
and at the Annual Reunion, so the time commitment is minimal.
Meetings take place at the School and usually start at 6.30pm.***



Committee News

We would like to congratulate our Committee Member, Gemima Snowden (Mackney) who has had a busy couple of years giving birth to Teddy on the 8th December 2021, was married on 27th October 2022 to John Snowden and gave birth to Hattie on 18th May 2023.



Get to know the Westwoodians' Committee

Vicky Axe, Chair (Former Pupil: 1988 – 2001)



I am a Programme Manager for the National Institute of Health and Care Excellence (NICE). I help develop and publish national evidence-based guidelines which cover a range of topics, from preventing and managing specific health conditions to planning broader services and interventions to improve the health of communities.

Before NICE I worked in Australia for the National Government in Payroll. I have lived and worked in Canberra, Australia and Aix-en-Provence, France. I went to the University of Hull studying English and History.

I have so many wonderful memories of the School. It's where I was educated from 4 to 18 years old. It's where my Mum taught, where my Dad worked and where we all lived for a period of time when they were Boarding House parents. It's where I got married, where my children were christened and where they now go to school. I made so many special friends at the school that I still regularly see.

Although I always knew, it is only since having my own children, and especially since COVID, that I have realised just how wonderful each and every teacher at the school was. I loved the PE lessons – it's quite impressive when you remember how little equipment we had, but yet, how often we would win things, and what a wide range of sports we had access to. I loved the lunches, the play time and the sports clubs. I loved the bun of the day. I loved the reverence we all held for the black door, the sixth form common room, Mrs Storey's office and the staff room! Even though so much has changed at the school, it still has that family feel. You still drive down that beautiful driveway, and when I walk into the chapel or the school hall, I still remember being there and all the people I was there with. It was a special, happy time and it's lovely to see the new generations enjoying it just as much as I did.

Margaret Hope (Hurn), Vice Chair (Former Pupil: 1958 – 1971)

I attended Westwood House as it was then from 1958 to 1971. I enjoyed school so trying to pick out a favourite memory is difficult, but anything to do with Home Economics would be high on my list. When I left school, I did a HND in Catering Management at Elizabeth College of Higher Education in Manchester then worked for 4 years at Cheshire College of Agriculture as Assistant Domestic Bursar.

I got married in 1978 to Frank and we returned to Thorney where we have lived since then. I then lectured in Catering at the Isle College Wisbech until we had our son John in 1991. Since then, I have done a variety of volunteering roles, at present I'm at the cathedral where I'm part of the embroidery volunteers, where we are stitching a replica of the nave ceiling.



I have been on the Committee for a number of years undertaking various roles, the Treasurer, The Chair and Vice Chair.

Angela Axe (Former Pupil: 1953 – 1964)



The School has been part of my life for most of my life as I understand I accompanied my elder brother and sister up the drive from 1953. I then joined the School in P1 in 1960, with Miss Wellington as my Form Mistress. I left in 1964 to return as Head of PE in January 1979, taking up the post after Mrs May left to have her baby. I enjoyed teaching PE full time for many years, with so many fond



Committee News

memories of both my colleagues and pupils, including wonderful ski trips, activity holidays and team tours to South Africa and Barbados.

My daughter was a pupil from 1987 - 2001. I also enjoyed 5 years with Mr Axe, as Boarding House parents. Following several years as Head of Pastoral Care I retired from teaching in July 2014, but have had the good fortune to be able to return regularly as a grandparent.

Hannah Baker (Former Pupil: 1992 - 2006)



I was at Peterborough High School from 1992 to 2006 and left to study Physiotherapy. After graduation I was a physiotherapist in the NHS and private practice. In 2013 I returned to University to study Agriculture and returned to the area to help run our family business. We have since diversified into holiday lets as well as our

arable enterprise. Away from the farm, I enjoy tennis and family life with my husband Rob and young son Joshua and more recently helping run a local community interest company, Coffee Ark.

Gwen Biddle-Edwards (Former Pupil: 1947 – 1957)

I was educated at Westwood House School from the age of 6 in 1947 to 16 years of age in 1957. On leaving School I was able to secure a position with the TSB, Trustees Savings Bank, in Cumbergate, Peterborough in 1958 and was employed with them until 1991 when I retired. I then however became the Secretary of the Lloyds TSB retirement club and have been doing this for the last 32 years.



I have two daughters, four grandchildren and six great grandchildren. As a hobby my late husband and I, in 1974, started breeding, exhibiting, and judging the British Bulldog, I have

judged in England and on the continent many times.

I believe I may be the oldest member of the Westwoodians' Association Committee and look forward to many more years yet.

Micheala Drazek (Former Pupil: 2006 – 2013)



After completing my law degree at the University of Leicester, I started working part time at Greenwoods Legal in Peterborough. On the days I wasn't working I continued to study for my postgraduate diploma in legal practice, and then my masters. Once I was finally done with studying in 2019 (6 years after leaving School!)

I began my period of formal training to become a solicitor. I stayed with Greenwoods on qualification and now enjoy advising businesses on all aspects of Employment law. My favourite thing about being a solicitor is building relationships with clients and finding out about the different industries they operate in.

My favourite memories of School are food based! I loved the variety of lunches we had (especially the themed days like celebrating Chinese New Year) and the amazing buns each break time. I had fun singing in the choirs with my friends, especially at Christmas. I also enjoyed studying for my A Levels, while finding any excuse I could to avoid Sixth Form PE on a Friday afternoon!

Hannah Garford (Former Pupil: 1999 – 2006)

After leaving PHS, I studied History and Sociology at the University of Liverpool and later trained to become a primary school teacher. I love working with children and now have two boys of my own: Max, five and Freddie, two. Life is hectic but so much fun and never a dull moment...!



I have so many happy memories of my time at PHS that it is hard to pick out any in particular. Many involve choir concerts, musical rehearsals or sports matches (even the ones in the rain and snow!). I have been a member of the Westwoodians' Association Committee since 2007, which has been a great way to keep in touch and see how the school has developed over the years.

Chris King (Former Staff: 2000 – 2019)

I joined PHS in September 2000 and retired in December 2019. I taught Mathematics in the Senior School and in the latter part of my time at the School was Head



Committee News



of Department. During my time at the School, I was also Head of PSHE, Houses and helped with football and running.

I am now living in Sheringham, where I am Station Master at the Sheringham North Norfolk

Railway Station and still enjoy running and playing football.

Julia Lamb (Former Pupil: 1976-1983)

I attended Westwood House from 1976 to 1983. I have 2 sons and 2 grandchildren who live locally.



I have remained in the area, and I am still actively involved in music, teaching piano, and singing to diploma level and travelling Northamptonshire, Lincolnshire, and Rutland as a church organist.

Gemima Snowden (Former Pupil: 2000 – 2008)

After leaving PHS in 2008, I spent a year travelling to several destinations including Australia, New Zealand, and Fiji. My favourite destination however was Tanzania. Here I spent 3 months teaching in a primary school as well as volunteering with the adult English programme. After this I went on to study Primary Education, with a specialism in Art, at Winchester University before accepting a teaching role at All Saints Primary School in Peterborough. I spent the next 10 years teaching in Years 2 - 5, becoming Phase Leader and a member of the Senior Leadership Team. It was at this time I had my first child, Teddy, so decided to take a break from teaching. Not long after Teddy was born, we were married and then welcomed Hattie into the world. Now I get to enjoy my other passion of animals alongside my farmer husband. We currently breed sheep and cows on our farm near Elton.



My favourite memory of my time at school was the opportunity to travel to South Africa on a netball and Hockey tour - 33 pupils and 3 teachers! It was an incredible experience, and I will never forget being sent on a coastal

hike (to waste some time) whilst our GCSE results were faxed over and handwritten onto small individual scraps of paper so we could find out how we did on GCSE results day!

Rosalyn Mayle (Teacher, 1989 to current day)

I started working at Westwood House School in September 1989, taking up the position of Head of Geography. During the following years, I was also responsible for the teaching of Travel and Tourism in the Sixth Form. For many years I was the principal Year 7 Form Tutor and, in this role, taught Geography in Year 6 and Reasoning in Years 4,5 and 6.



Doing a lot of work on transition into the Senior School.

I retired in 2017, although this was short-lived, and I returned in September 2018 to cover KS3 History, within a matter of months I was covering the maternity leave of my successor.

Following lockdown, I returned once again to teach lower school Science, (Physics was indeed my second teaching subject, when I trained!) In the last few years, I have worked part time in both Humanities and Science and continue to do so. Highlights of my time here are too numerous to mention, but high on the list must be the Experience Pakistan tour in 2004 and the many residential trips with various Year 7 groups and Year 12 geographers, as well as fieldtrips by the score.

Patrica Reid (Former Staff: 1977 – 2010)

After completing my education at Larne Grammar School, I became a technician in the Quality Control Laboratories of Associated Animal Feed Manufacturers in Belfast before relocating to Peterborough in 1973 with my husband and two young sons.

I joined the staff of Westwood House in January 1977 as Laboratory Technician. I have many happy memories, the lovely relaxing walk up the drive through all seasons, flapjack, or chocolate crunch at breaktime and the anticipation and fun of Appeals Day.

But the memory I treasure most from my thirty-three years is that I never felt that I was just a member of staff but a part of a happy school family.



A message from the Westwoodians' Prefect



A message from the Westwoodians' Prefect, Megan Wilkinson



parents had to listen to at home!), I earned a Scholarship to the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire. I've been very involved with the music department over the years, starting off in Star Strings and Infant Choir. I remember fondly the recitals at St Johns Church, organised by Mr Bingham. These were my first performances, and they were always enjoyable and valuable experiences.

Spending all these years at School has given me memories that I will cherish forever, whether that be the Christmas Nativity plays in Prep School, and having to dress up as sheep in Reception, or the Sixth Form Tug of War tradition (where the Year 13s let go of the rope and the Year 12s go flying!). The Carol Service was a key highlight of ours, every year people would comment about how magical it felt and it wasn't Christmas until we'd had the Carol Service! We all had such great fun in Sixth Form, whether that be cramming for an exam together in the common room or our daily excursions to the Co-Op. Everyone had great fun on the hottest day of the year when our PE lesson broke out into a massive water fight outside!

I will forever be grateful to The Peterborough School for the support that I have received over the years, whether that be from students or staff. It really is a family. I'll definitely be keeping in touch with the School and am looking forward to coming back for the Westwoodians' Reunions and other events.

My journey at The Peterborough School (TPS) began in 2007, back in the School Nursery so I quite literally grew up here! It was here that I met lifelong friends that stayed with me at TPS until the end of Sixth Form. TPS gave me the opportunity to start the violin when I was 7 and after many years of practising (and some awful screeching that my



Peak Governance Business Advisors is privileged to be associated with The Peterborough School Alumni, Westwoodians' Association and The Peterborough School. We support the development of our youth, and we share the ethos and principles of the School.

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Interview with the Head Boy and Head Girl



This year our outgoing Head Boy and Head Girl, Benjamin Meadows and Sarah Allen were interviewed by our new Heads of School, Ikaheng Pagiwa and Isobel Liddle to discover what these roles have really meant for them.

How do you think you have impacted the School through your role this year?

Ben: The obvious one I think is probably the mural.

Sarah: Yes, I agree, we spent a lot of our focus on making a new space for students to hang out, especially when it gets hot, as there was not a space for students to hang out outside as much, apart from the field. So, we just wanted to take a more vibrant space and make it look appealing and colourful and not as grey and dull as it was beforehand.

Ben: It is still kind of a work in progress, but we can pass it on. Other stuff that we have impacted, such as Student Parliament, even if it is just minor things, when all put together, it is a big achievement. Things like improving the Refectory situation.

Sarah: Also improving the School uniform, which is slowly being changed, and we have

helped with lots of little things that people on the outside don't necessarily realise are going on, behind the scenes.

What would you say has been your favourite thing working alongside each other?

Sarah: I feel like we balance each other very well, Ben is very calming and always knows exactly what is going on.

Ben: And I think Sarah is very reliable. She gets stuff done.

Sarah: Some may say that I'm a bit bossy, but I do feel as though we work well together and complement each other's work styles.

Ben: I mean it's good to be bossy in a way. Sometimes you must be in a role, in order to get things done.

What skills have you gained through your role?

Sarah: Public speaking. I feel as though now I don't get as nervous as much, because at first you feel as though everyone is watching you but as you go along you start to realise that no one is judging you. The Senior Prefect meetings help you gain people management skills, which then become applicable when you go into the work field. It is a good skill to have gained.

Ben: Also, being proactive with your time, for example showing up early to assembly and getting what the teachers want done as quickly as possible so that you are being the best you can possibly be in the role.

What would be your advice to Year 7?

Sarah: I think to not care too much about what people think. To fully take on the experience of being at School and being in an environment where there's so many different activities which you can do, as it goes by so quickly and you don't want to look back on your time and think I should've been in the play or got involved in more sports. So, I'd say just embrace every single opportunity.

Ben: I would pretty much say the same thing



Interview with the Head Boy and Head Girl

as Sarah, just don't let yourself overthink things so that you miss out on having fun, you can chill out a bit because its Year 7 you do still have the rest of your school years to come.

Sarah: it is also so important to keep a balance of work like and social life in the younger years.

What advice would you give to someone thinking about becoming Head of School in the future?

Sarah: I think I would say to just go for it! Be yourself and be confident, even if you don't think that you are the most confident or the loudest person, just put yourself forward and that says a lot about you. Just fake it till you make it!

Ben: I agree because applying for things lower down in the school is seen as an equivalent for going into a position of responsibility later. Teachers will take note that you are putting yourself forward for these things. If you have that confidence early on it can be noticed by your teachers and the sixth formers.

Sarah: Just be kind to everyone because if people see that, through all the years, you have always been kind to people and have been kind to teachers, it honestly reflects so well. So just be kind, be honest and be confident.

Was there anything surprising that you faced in your role?

Sarah: I think not surprising necessarily, but I didn't think we would be as involved behind the scenes as we were and be in on teachers, as they do very much include you and you really are made to feel very much part of the decision-making. It really starts to feel as though you are stepping up and becoming an adult now.

Ben: Especially when we went to the Westwoodians' meeting. We were the only two sixth formers there, everyone else were adults and that really highlighted our responsibility.

Sarah: The amount of responsibility we got was also a little surprising, because I knew

we would get responsibility in assemblies and those areas, but you do get given that responsibility behind the scenes as well.

What has been your favourite part of the role?

Ben: Working with Sarah.

Sarah: Likewise, Ben.

Ben: I think the public speaking got quite enjoyable as you got into it, because at first you don't really know what to expect, standing up there in front of everyone. After a while you get used to it and when you are in the zone it starts to feel quite good.

Sarah: I think it feels nice representing the School because you go to events and you are sometimes the main two people representing The Peterborough School, and that is nice, it feels good.

Ben: It becomes nice once you get that experience because you don't have that pressure anymore, like by the time you guys do Speech Day you will be fully into the roles.

Sarah: I agree with Ben and all I can say is just enjoy it and you will be great!



Thank you to both Sarah and Ben for your hard work over the past year in improving our community as our Head Boy and Head Girl. We have learnt a lot from your examples and thank you for this insight into your roles. We wish you the best in your future endeavours and hope to perform this role as well as you both have.

Isobel Liddle and Ikaheng Pagiwa –
Heads of School 2023/24



Welcome – New Members 2023

Welcome to the Westwoodians' Association and congratulations on your excellent A Level results.

Student	Subjects
Sarah Allen	Geography*, Psychology*, Sociology*
Louis Ashcroft	Mathematics**, Further Maths*, Physics**
Umar Attique	Biology, Chemistry, Psychology, EPQ
Oliver Bowman	Economics, Geography, History, EPQ
Daisy Briggs	Art, Psychology, Business Studies, EPQ
Emily Burton	Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics, EPQ**
Matthew Carr	Biology, History, Mathematics
Molly Egbe	Biology, Chemistry, Psychology
Dylan Elding	Drama, Psychology, Business Studies*
William Goldsmith	Biology, Economics, Geography, EPQ*
Jamie Hall	Economics, Mathematics, Business Studies
Bhamini Khandige	Art, Economics, English, EPQ*
Ella Lambert	English, Philosophy, Business Studies
Georgia Longworth	Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics, EPQ
Grace Marriott	Economics, Mathematics*, Further Maths*, Computing (AS Level)
Benjamin Meadows	English**, History, Philosophy*, EPQ*
Chubo Mukutuma	Economics, History, Mathematics*
Hasnat Nawaz	Economics, Philosophy, Business Studies, EPQ
Tim Osborne	Mathematics, Physics, Product Design
Danielle Owusu-Ansah	Biology*, Chemistry*, Psychology**, EPQ**
Gabrielle Owusu-Ansah	Biology*, Chemistry*, Philosophy*, EPQ**
Sam Patel-Espin	Chemistry*, Mathematics*, Physics*, EPQ**
Victoria Penev	History, Psychology, Sociology, EPQ
Bradley Petrie	Product Design, Business Studies
Grace Ricciardi	Geography, Psychology, Business Studies
Zahra Rubea	Art, English, Sociology
Rohan Shah	Economics*, Mathematics*, Philosophy*, EPQ*
Maninder Singh	Economics, Mathematics, Business Studies
Thahaa Sohail	Economics, Philosophy, Psychology
Lola Stephenson	Chemistry, Product Design*, EPQ**
Shawn Tanyanyiwa	Biology, Economics, Mathematics
Oscar Viner	History, Mathematics*, Philosophy*, EPQ**
Megan Wilkinson	Biology, Philosophy, Psychology
Chloe Williamson	Economics, Psychology, Sociology
Lillie Young	Economics, Mathematics, Music, EPQ*

** = A* Grade

* = A Grade

EPQ = Extended Project Qualification

Please keep in touch and let us know how your course is going, or what you are doing on your GAP year: alumni@tps.ch.co.uk

School News and Events



The Peterborough School Nursery - Nursery Manager, Mrs Emma Auston

I first joined the Nursery team in June 2022 and the months have flown by. We are excited about the Nursery expansion and have renamed all the playrooms in the Nursery. This gives each room a sense of belonging. The reason we named them is to show the growth and development of a child, whilst reflecting on

the natural environment that we are so lucky to be part of. The names of the rooms are **Little Acorns** for our youngest children up to the age of 1 year, **Acorns** for our older babies, up to the age of 2 years, **Little Oaks** for our toddlers up to the age of 3 years and **Oaks** for our oldest children, the year before they head off to School.



School Productions



In March 2022 we were delighted that after a couple of years without a School Production, our Head of Drama, Mrs Shang, was able to put on an amazing performance of The Addams Family Musical. This is a comedy with a twist that embraces the wackiness in every family and about one fateful night when the family host's a dinner for Wednesday's 'normal' boyfriend and his parents.

It was such a wonderful production and couldn't have happened without the whole team, the students both onstage and backstage performing with both talent and enthusiasm!



Arthur King - In February 2023 Mrs Graves along with our talented students made up of a range of Senior School pupils ably assisted by seasoned members of the Sixth Form, put on a School Production, Arthur King. This is a modern-day comedy about a teenage boy who believes he is the reincarnation of King Arthur and his long-suffering friend Percy. The show was a huge success and for some performers, this was the last performance they made at the School.





Coronation Celebrations

In the Summer, the whole School and Nursery celebrated the crowning of King Charles III with a Coronation lunch, street party style but in the shelter of the Refectory after the heavens opened quite spectacularly. That did not stop the fun, however, and pupils and staff alike enjoyed a buffet style lunch whilst listening to

the wonderful sounds of our talented musicians, serenading us from under the gazebos outside. A beautiful magnolia tree was planted to mark the occasion of the Coronation.



Mural

As previously mentioned, the Westwoodians' Association made a donation towards a mural on the side of the Art Block. The theme behind the mural, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, was selected by Student Parliament and led by Lillie Young and Thahaa Sohail who wanted to encapsulate the School's values and beliefs within each design and did so by working with Nathan Murdoch (street artist) and inspiring him through the work of our Student Parliament and our talented students who had created pieces of artwork influenced by Equality, Diversity and Inclusion.



Lillie Young, Thahaa Sohail with Nathan Murdoch, Street Artist



School News and Events

Appeals Day

On 31st March, pupils across the School worked very hard on providing interesting, challenging and fun stalls, games, entertainment and refreshments, all in aid of this year's School

charity, The Peterborough Soup Kitchen. We were very proud of our Charities Prefect, Daisy Briggs, Charities Liaison Prefect, Zahra Rubea, and their Committee for their hard work.



Guess the number of balloons in the car



Sixth Form Cafe



Westwoodians' Committee Members enjoying a break in the Sixth Form Café

School News and Events



The afternoon culminated in a very exciting **House Battle of the Bands**, with lots of audience participation and cheering. Huge congratulations to all our performers, who were absolutely brilliant, and a special well done to Spencer House, who stole the show and took the esteemed Battle of the Bands Trophy!



Newton



Spencer



Eliot



Mandela



Winners
– Spencer
House

Class of 2023



Good luck Class of 2023 – hope to see you all soon.



Class of 2023



Leavers' Service – July 2023



Class of 2023



Good luck Class
of 2023 – we will
miss you!



Gill Mason, Food Technology Teacher (2007–2023)

My Food Tech journey...

How do you follow Miss Pauline Facy? This was my unenviable task when I took on the role of Food Technology Teacher at Peterborough High School. A hard act to follow but someone who was always willing to offer me help and guidance whenever I needed. Thank you, Pauline!

I was initially employed in April 2007 for three afternoons a week, to teach Year 7, 8 and 9 students – an all-girls school at that time and no more than 8 girls, for the whole afternoon, plus help from the Food Technician called Mrs Tobin. Cooking skills were practiced and perfected. The food technology room housed a separate cooking and teaching area and was bright orange! I imagine a lot of you reading this article remember the orange cupboard doors, a real 70's flashback.

Big changes occurred over the next few years as I took on full-time teaching, the introduction of boys and a name change to The Peterborough School plus the retirement of Miss Facy. The Food Technology department continued to teach important life skills and in 2017 we introduced the GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition course.

Also, around this time the Preparatory School curriculum changed to include Cooking for the Year 6 and Lower School pupils and the Food Technology room seemed to be busy all day!!!

Open Days were always busy! I would go in early and bake a few batches of sausage rolls,



everyone stopped to sample the sausage rolls, even the Senior Leadership Team would walk over for a taste. During one Open Day I was telling a young man and his mum what we would cook in Year 9 if he came to join us and he said, “can I sign my mum up, as all she can make is chili con carne and we have that a lot!”

One of the many highlights of my 16 years of school life was the ‘bun competition’. We all know how important the ‘Bun of the Day’ is to everyone so with Ivana’s help, we launched a competition to bake a bun at home, photograph it and submit it with the recipe. Fred Muddiman, who at the time was the Head Chef at the

Moat House and our own Liz Darley, Catering Manager, judged the entries and chose the final 20. These pupils went to the Moat House and worked with the chefs in the hotel kitchen to produce a lunch for invited guests and parents. A great experience for them all.

It has been such a delight to witness the progress of so many pupils, growing in both ability and confidence, and in turn, producing many amazing dishes and products. I retired from my teaching position as I am shortly going to be a grandma (by the time you read this I probably will be a grandma) and I wanted to be able to spend time with my family. However, as Adrian calls it, the “boomerang effect” happened!! I am now a relief teacher at School, so still have the pleasure of seeing both pupils and staff and retaining all the friendships I have made in 16 happy and fulfilling years.

Daniel Brocklesby – Former Westwoodians' Prefect, Class of 2022



unconditional place at the University of Leeds starting September 2023. Here, I will be continuing my personal development in a range of topics including Bodies of Difference: Gender, Power and the Visual arts, Anthropology, Art, and Representation and many more.

My plan after leaving university with the knowledge and experiences I will gain is to either go into art dealership or continue within painting and focus on exhibition opportunities.

Since leaving The Peterborough School, I have attended a Foundation Course in Art and Design at Leeds Arts University. The reason for attending this course was to enable my exploration into possible degree courses. I was particularly excited about courses on Prosthetic Design, Urban Planning and Fine Art.

Whilst completing the Foundation Course, I had many exciting opportunities in live nude drawing from visiting models, exhibition trips and independent work including my final major project. I chose a fine art-based topic of 'Sculpture within Growth', for my final major project. I researched into subtopics on Chernobyl, Cell Mutation, and the process of Naturalia. In response, I produced an Installation piece made of crochet and dried flowers.

The success within public exhibitions and my awarded grade for this fine art-based project led me to making the decision of studying Fine Art at degree level and being offered an



"Oil Painting - work in progress 18 x 22 inches"



Honours Board

2019

SHERYL LAI

LLB Hons Law, The University of York

2020

SHERYL LAI

MA in Medical Law and Ethics, King's College London

2021

ABIGAIL LUCAS

BA Hons Ili, Fashion: Design & Communication, Liverpool John Moores

2022

FERN EASTON

BA Hons Ili, Geography, University of Loughborough

SHERYL LAI

The Postgraduate Certificate in Laws, The City University of Hong Kong

HANNAH O'DRISCOLL

MA I, English, University of Nottingham

DEVANSH SAMPAT

BSc Hons Ilii, Actuarial Science, University of Kent

 The
Peterborough
School

Looking to connect with former classmates?

Join our growing community on LinkedIn to stay
in touch with life at The Peterborough School!

<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/12882800/>





Associates' News, Events and Updates

JANE LAWSON (Read) – Class of 1953

A lot has happened over the last few years, sadly my husband Max died of COVID in September 2020 which was a very difficult time. Unfortunately, I have been out of action for a while as I was diagnosed with breast cancer on the 5th November 2021, after receiving treatment I have thankfully recovered.

Friends – Jane Biggs, Dinny Turnbull, Jane Holland.

ANNETTE MORTON (Allsebrook) – Class of 1960

I moved to Longthorpe 6 years ago from living in the country. Sadly, my husband Alan passed away in 2011. We have 3 children, 2 of our daughters attended Westwood House from 1976 onwards.

Friends – Wendy Vergette, Susan Belton, Andrea Farrow.

If any of my friends would like to get in touch, please contact The Alumni Team (Alumni@tps.ch.co.uk) who will forward your details on.

MARY MCTAVISH (Francis) – Class of 1971

We have been retired from our lives as kiwifruit orchardists for four years now and have bought ourselves a small rural property with wide views of Tauranga and The Bay of Plenty in the North Island of New Zealand. We are effectively only about 15 minutes from our orchard as the crow flies but a world away in outlook and lifestyle. For over 30 years we lived inside the 20' high shelter belts that grew around the perimeter of our orchard - mainly to combat high winds and for some frost protection - both weather events that delicate kiwifruit does not like. The main criteria for our next phase of life would have to have views and we were lucky to find an ex-Bed & Breakfast Lodge on the market which had

everything we had hoped to find. We are almost the same distance away from Tauranga which is quite a large city by New Zealand standards complete with a university and large hospital - around 160,000 people so we are well served. I paint in Watercolour, pastels and oils and have enjoyed that hobby for a number of years, selling works here and overseas. John, my husband writes and has had two books published so we have plenty to keep us occupied with our home and garden always to enjoy as well.

I have kept in touch with one or two ladies who were at school with me from 1963 to 1971 but have lived in NZ since 1977 so am more or less a local now.

SARAH EASTON – Class of 1974

I met up for a night out in Shipston in January with Westwoodian friends, Cathy Connan, Ellyn McCulloch, Kate Hamilton and Annabel Holm-Johansen, with some of us not having seen each other for 40 years. We had a great time recounting school stories and catching up on family news. Ellyn had dug out an old photo booth snap of myself and herself messing around – I guess we were 14 or 15, and a photo of probably the U14/15 hockey team @1980/81.



Ellyn and Sarah 14/15 years old

In other news, my daughter Fern, completed her Police Training in March 2023 and is now a serving Police Officer.



Westwood Cakes Reunion – January 2023



U14/15 Hockey Team – 1980/1981



Associates' News, Events and Updates

REBECCA LOUWERSE (Jeffreys) - Class of 1976
Still going strong after 47 years!

Five 'girls' from the class of '76 descended on Devon recently for a mini reunion. The action-packed weekend included yoga and sea swimming at Bigbury beach, a tour of the Plymouth Gin Distillery (including a tasting session for medicinal purposes only!) and visits to Saltram House and Agatha Christie's home, Greenway House.

In between there was plenty of time for raucous laughter and reminiscing.



From left to right: Elinor Thompson, Carol Crook (Rushford), Philippa Gasson (Halford), Lucy Brown (Boyle) and Rebecca Louwerse (Jeffreys).

JENNY DUNBAR (Brittain) – Class of 1976

I continue to write and create ceramics both here in Oundle and in France. My writing consistently appears in literary journals, and you can find my ceramics at, Cambridge Ceramics Gallery, online.

ANNABELLE DIXON – Class of 1987

My BSc (Hons) in Computer Science from Warwick University (in 1990) served me well, and I've had a career in Logistics IT since graduating. I've been self-employed as a consultant in this field for the last 14 years. I also spent the last 5-6 years retraining (whilst also working), and have qualified in Coaching and Mentoring, as well as gaining a Diploma in Clinical Hypnotherapy, along with numerous other coaching/therapy related practitioner courses.

Friends - *Samantha Hull, Julie Stamper, Selena Leggett, Ursula Blake, Katherine Wilson, Carrie Mackay, Monica Liang, Sarah Porter*

DAWN KURTAGICH (Bergemann) – Class of 2005

I have been busy writing, the sequel to the young adult horror/dark fantasy novel *TEETH IN THE MIST*, titled *BLOOD ON THE WIND* which is due to be published this year in December. A Taste of Darkness, a young adult anthology publishing with Scholastic UK is out September 2023 featuring one of my stories. My debut adult novel, to be published under my pen name Rook Bergen, has sold to Graydon House,

Harper Collins, in a 2-book six figure deal in a World English pre-empt.

DEVANSH SAMPAT – Class of 2018

I finished my studies this year at the University of Kent in Actuarial Science with a Year in Industry. I will be joining Allianz Insurance in September of this year, where I had previously completed my placement year within Enterprise Portfolio Management, Actuarial Motor Trade, and IT Development Operations. I will be working within Underwriting and will be pursuing qualification with the Chartered Institute of Insurers as part of my graduate scheme with Allianz.

HANNAH O'DRISCOLL – Class of 2019

I had the most amazing three years at The University of Nottingham studying English. I became President of one of the University's largest sporting clubs - Korfbal (Google it!), took part in numerous theatre productions and left with a first-class degree. Following this, I gained a scholarship to do a Law Conversion Master's at The University of Law Moorgate and am on track to receive a distinction when I graduate in September.

Some particular highlights of my year have been working with the National Justice Museum to put on mock trials for school pupils as well as writing my dissertation about the failings of The Modern Slavery Act 2015. Very excitingly, I am moving to Australia in March 2024 to start work as a paralegal in a criminal law firm whilst completing my exams to become a qualified solicitor!



SARAH LYNN – Class of 2019

I left the school after Sixth Form in the class of 2019. Since then, I have graduated from the University of Leeds in July 2022 with a first-class Hons degree in BA Theatre and Performance. I am now completing my teacher training year as a secondary school drama teacher and have secured a job in this position.



In Memory of Bethany Johnson

In memory of Bethany Johnson 1994 - 2019

Bethany was my daughter and a former student of Peterborough High School (PHS) from 2007 to 2012. Anyone who knew her, will tell you that she was a truly unique soul, with an exceptionally kind and generous heart and an impish sense of humour! She was also very creatively gifted, excelling in writing, art, drama and music.



When she was 12 years old, she was unhappy at the school she was attending - it was too competitive, and she was finding it very stressful. One night, shortly before we found out that we would be relocating to Peterborough, Beth dreamt she was attending a new school, one where she would flourish, make true friends and where she would be happy. And sure enough, when we learned that we would need to move, we found Peterborough High School. From her very first day she loved it, and she was to go on to make enduring friendships and be successful, without the pressure that had stifled her.

It was at PHS, while working towards her GCSEs, that Beth started to write poetry and in 2011, at the age of just 14, she won The John Clare Prize for Poetry, which she

delivered 'God Bless my Happy Nightmare' in Westminster Hall.

While at PHS, Beth also received huge encouragement with her artwork and produced some beautiful pieces, revealing an energy and insight beyond her years.

Sadly, in her later teens, Beth endured several years of illness, and we lost her in 2019 when she was just 24 years old. It's been a very difficult time for us all, but now that four years have passed, I now feel able to publish her artwork and poetry.

Before her death, Beth completed 'Panacea Poetry'. It was born of a deep spiritual belief and blossomed from a simple wish for love and gentle kindness, and to impart the healing power of nature. The clarity and simplicity of word conveys precious messages including peace in authenticity, wisdom in learned experience, beauty in everything and everyone, and above all else, the value of health and love.

The second part of the book, 'Growing Up', has been gathered from poetry written during her teenage years and includes her John Clare prize-winning poem '**God Bless my Happy Nightmare**'. Beth was always very serene and humble, and tended to shy away from the limelight, so it was a joy to learn that she had told her brother how proud she continued to be of this huge achievement.





In Memory of Bethany Johnson

Panacea Poetry is also full of her artwork (the picture on the cover is a self-portrait she painted while at PHS). I'll leave you with the words from her introduction:

Beautiful reader, I desire to seduce your heart, mind & soul with pure words woven from dreams, enchantment & all that I am. I feel intense pleasure & gratitude that you're here in this moment, devoting attention to creative writing that begged to be birthed & I reach out lovingly to you.



For anyone who would like to buy Beth's book, *Panacea Poetry* is now available on Amazon. A review would be so welcome, as it will really help to bring her work to as many people as possible.

Truly Golden

*In a world where so much costs money,
Where a payment seems necessary for so much,
There are some things that can always be free,
Love, unconditional love,
Empathy, kindness, gentleness, thoughtfulness,
The power of our own thoughts, faith, choices
moment to moment.*

God Bless my Happy Nightmare

*I'm running away to Land Freedom,
where I feel safe- that's it.
I mean it, far away.
They say this is my home –
but not with all the screams;*

breath, breathe: the constant drumming.

*Not when the bottle cracks;
-split sticky red over the table edge-
it's not a home when I'm afraid.
See me fall howling on my bed.*

*Tell me it's home when you're dreaming
of a life past its boundaries:
where you'd be a legend. The free child.*

*'So run,' my mind whispers,
'I dare you, I dare you.'
Well I'm not a coward Papa: I always dared.*

*Goodbye my happy house on the hill,
I'm leaving behind your horrors,
look for me where your heart leads you Muma.
Call me. I'll always be home.*





In Memory of Tony Porter

In Memory of Tony Porter – Former Art Teacher 1979 - 2000

Born 29th December 1945 sadly passed away 22nd March 2023

It was with great sadness that we received news of the sudden passing of Tony Porter on 22nd March 2023.

Many of you will remember, with great affection, the days when Tony, his wife Pat and Gill Meadows reigned over the Art Room. Others of you will have been peers of their

daughters, Sarah, Sophie, and Chloe, and will have fond memories of the Porter family.

I was privileged to represent the School at Tony's funeral as both a former colleague and a current member of staff. The family have given permission for Tony's Eulogy which was written by Charlie Porter to be published in the Westwoodians' Newsletter. I think you will agree that it is a most fitting tribute to a very special person and will bring a smile as we remember Art when Tony was at the helm.

Written by Ros Mayle

Tony Porter, Eulogy - Written by Charlie Porter

Tony Porter believed in magic. It was an alchemy of art, poetry, music, family, and love. Each was intertwined, an innate philosophy of living for himself, and to be passed on to others. This magic was real and was lived every day. It was a magic we thought we would live within for years to come, until we lost our dad so unexpectedly in March.



Tony was an artist, a teacher, and a maker. He was a family man, his life centred around his beloved wife Pat, with whom he was together for 58 years. They celebrated not just their wedding anniversary, but also their date of meeting, at a college Halloween party, that Tony would call "that fateful night". Together, their lives were centred around their children: Sarah, Sophie, Charlie and Chlöe. This centring grew to include their grandchildren: Libby, Billy, Arthur, Kate, Peggy, and Dory.

Tony's childhood was mostly spent in the west and southwest of England. His happiest memories were of freedom and the open air, like riding bikes and go-carts down a long hill in Burton-on-Trent, with his brother Will and oldest friend, Eric Bodger. He also loved

spending time on Uncle Joe's farm, and on the beaches of Weston-Super-Mare, or as, he would call it, Weston-Super-Mud.

From an early age, Tony found his own way of being. This was a necessity of survival, after being sent to a boarding school in 1950s Britain, a separation further heightened when his parents moved to Switzerland for work, creating physical distance between Tony and his younger brothers Tim, and, eventually, Hans. As a boarder at school, he awakened himself to culture, evolving his own taste and developing his love of art and jazz. A friend from King's College Taunton recently described him at school as "a rare beacon of light".

In Memory of Tony Porter

Tony was headstrong. His father told him he could only go to art school if he got into the Slade, one of the most prestigious in the country. Tony got into the Slade. He met Pat in his first term. Stars aligned. They lived off eggs and toast for their entire university life. They were completely committed to each other, their work, and how they were going to live. It is in recognition of these formative college years that Tony's family is asking for donations to Slade One, a fund to help ensure fair and equal access to art education.

For over six decades, art was a practice of seeing, understanding, and questioning. Tony was a natural watercolourist, painting always from life. He would head out with paper pinned to a board, his paints, and brushes, saying he was "off for a blob". The countryside was his. He would often drive-up lanes that said "no trespassing" to find the right spot, endlessly fascinated by landscape and light. Often, Tony and Pat would park up and paint together. First, Tony would position the car so Pat had the best view from her front seat. Then, he would open the boot, and paint stood out the back, the two independents, in symbiosis.

There was a lightness and fluidity to Tony's work. With day-to-day stuff it was like his hands wouldn't cooperate, fiddly things like opening a bag of crisps. Yet with his art, his lines and marks had both incredible precision and also freedom. He was always pushing his own techniques, returning in recent years to the experimentation of his college days. He made works based on the calculations of the Golden Ratio or made weavings from strips of painted paper. He would talk of each progressive experiment with glee, wanting to bring us along with him. Tony's family have gathered works from across his life at their home in Empingham, where everyone is invited following this ceremony.

By the mid-70s, Tony had become an art teacher, to fund his ever-growing family. In the early 80s, he took the job of head of art at Westwood House School in Peterborough. He cultivated a specific energy in his art room. The place seemed like chaos, the radio always



Tony Porter painting of Peterborough Cathedral

playing – Radio 1 or the local station Hereward, never his own jazz or classical – pupils dropping in like it was a second common room. Tony appreciated the support and friendship of his colleagues, such as Angela Storey, Don Coleman, and many others. Many former pupils have contacted the family with their memories, describing his art room as a haven, a place they could be themselves. Tony took the care of others seriously.

There was also seriousness in the work that happened in his art room. Tony encouraged pupils to take risks in their work, to try something new. There were pottery wheels and a kiln; a silk-screen printer, a dark room for experimenting with photography. Different pupils could work in different mediums all in the same lesson: it was a special creative chaos of which he was in control, and his pupils appreciated him for it.

This encouragement was part of his innate role as father and grandfather. Jazz and classical music was always playing at home, with particularly wild jazz when Tony was clashing



In Memory of Tony Porter

pots and pans to wash up. He would read poetry throughout his life. He would make individual suggestions to his children and grandchildren of what we could listen to or read, buy us books or CDs. But he never forced his music or his poetry onto his children or grandchildren. It was more an open invitation: this is what I love, what about you? It was part of his belief in individuality, and his desire for each of us to be our own selves.

Tony and Pat moved to Empingham in 1993. It would become their home for half their lives together. Tony fixed up what had been a dilapidated little house, just as he'd entirely renovated an old stable to become a family home at Ashwell. Tony had always made things, particularly toys, like pull-along trains, dolls cots, even a human size puppet theatre.

It was at Empingham that his love of gardening, in tandem with Pat, could flourish. The garden was another act of making: its beds, its planting, its constant care. Many of the flowers in today's arrangement were gathered from Tony and Pat's garden. Over in the field was their caravan, which they would take around the country. They would find camping sites to stay near their children, using the caravan as a base from which to set out on painting trips. Tony particularly loved taking Pat to the Paxton House chamber music Festival, parking the caravan in their favourite spot, enjoying together exquisite, intimate concerts.

Ten months ago, Tony lost Pat. He was devastated, but he had been doing so well. Initially, he couldn't listen to music. Then, he found himself able to attend concerts at the Stamford Arts Centre, of which he and Pat had been regulars. He would travel to Loughborough to take his granddaughter Libby for lunch, to talk about engineering. In February, he spent a week staying with his youngest daughter, Chlöe, in Lewes. It was that week of sudden warmth and early spring light. Tony found himself able to explore the countryside once again. He said he'd rediscovered watercolour painting of landscapes. He was excited about

the possibilities of what was to come.

In the end, Tony's life was about love. Pat had never catalogued her work, barely signed, or dated anything. He did not want it left that way. Tony spent the summer, autumn and winter diligently organising, recording, and storing her work, building his own shelving system to cope with the volume. It was an expression of his devotion to Pat, his love for her, and for what she had created, and the life they made together.

In April this year, Tony should have been in London. He had booked himself a ticket to see a matinee show of the guitarist Julian Lage at the Union Chapel. He had told us all about it, his kids, and his grandkids, in case we wanted to join him. No pressure, just continuing the encouragement of how to be.

He was so excited for Libby's upcoming graduation, for Billy's final year, for Arthur's first year at college, for Kate's studies at LAMP, for Peggy's GCSEs, and for Dory's love of reading, writing, acting, and making art. Within their magic, Tony goes on.



Tony and Pat Porter



In Memory of Adrienne Purnell

In memory of Adrienne Purnell 1966 - 1971

Adrienne (Addy) Purnell (nee Balshaw) - former student (1966 – 1971), born 9th December 1954 sadly passed away on 24th March 2023.

Sadly, my mum passed away with my dad by her side. She loved telling me about her time at School and had a School memento by her coffin at her funeral on the 27th of April at Weston Mill in Plymouth. She kept in contact with all her school friends and loved going to the reunions with them. Sadly, this has all been cut short and cancer won the fight. My mum did try for 3 years and beat it once, but it just came back stronger and spread too fast.

*Written by Zoe Purnell,
daughter of Addy Purnell.*

At boarding school, Addy was given the nickname Burny, and many Westwoodians will remember her by that name. She was an ardent Plymouth Argyle supporter and went to most of the home football fixtures before she became too poorly. She was also the driving force behind our reunions and organised one at School in 2016 which was 50 years since many of us started boarding at Westwood House, as it

was then known. She was two years above me so would have been 68.

*Written by (Anne) Louise Williams
(nee Staples)*

Adrienne (Burny) was a termly boarder at Westwood House from September 1966 to July 1971. Burny moved to Lancashire with her parents after Westwood and went to college there. Eventually the family moved to Plymouth where she met and married Dave (Crocky) Purnell in July 1978. Burny worked for many years for DWP. Burny was an avid Plymouth Argyle Football supporter with her season ticket being taken over by her family. Burny and Crocky had 2 children Zoe and Matthew. Zoe has 2 children Leon and Arianna and Matthew also has 2 children, Arthur, and Esme.

Sadly, Burny was diagnosed with cancer of the endometrium several years ago and after a brave fight passed away at home earlier this year. Friends from Westwood had kept in touch and were sending messages of love and support until the end.

Written by Stephanie Searles

Addy organised this group visit to the 2016 Reunion.



Left to right: Anne Peel (Hurn), Carol Wakefield (Muxlow), Christian Menzies-Wilson (Catto), Suzanne Daish (Kalen), Mary Edmunds Otter (Edmunds), Gilian Palgrave (Howick), **Adrienne Purnell (Balshaw)**, Ingrid Holmes (Alford), Anne Renshaw (Booker), Rona Mullenger (Hendry), Louise Williams (Staples), Susan Caudwell (Hurley), Judy Feaver (Eades), Margaret Rees (Hurley), Julia West (Riddington) and Sally Farrow (Eades)



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