

# Hywelian Guild Magazine — 2022 —



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*Front cover: A collage of news*

*Back cover: the Hywelian Badge*

# Welcome!

*ONCE THE CLOCKS have gone back, I know that it is time to start putting the next issue of the Hywelian Guild Magazine together. Unusually, by the time we had reached the October deadline, there was very little material to hand, except for obituaries.*

*After a reminder, your news did start to flow in, but the need for such a reminder has meant that this magazine is later appearing than usual and certainly later than we would like.*

*There is always the sadness of receiving notices of the deaths of Hywelian from friends and family. This time, that sadness is a more personal one, following the death in January 2021 of our Guild Secretary, Sue Rayner. Sue had been a very efficient and effective Guild Secretary, and she certainly made putting the magazine together an easier job for me. She was also a very good travelling companion: together we saw much of the world and enjoyed the experience of cultures and cuisines other than our own. It is thanks to her encouragement and company that I have those 'Table Mountain', 'Angkor Wat' and 'Machu Picchu' moments that I treasure so much. There are several fulsome*

*tributes to Sue in this magazine.*

*We were delighted that Cordelia Jervis has agreed to take over as Secretary and her letter of welcome is on page 7.*

*As always, I record my grateful thanks to all those who took the time to respond to the invitation to contribute; these are what make the magazine what it is. I must also thank those others who contribute in other ways by reminding me of what needs to be done and when, who ensure that the text is both readable and grammatically correct (Miss Lewis's Use of English classes come into play here!) and who encourage and reassure me when it all seems to be a mountain too high to climb in the time available.*

*To Hannah, Joyce and Janet—thank you. Our many thanks also go, of course, to Sally, our President, who supports the Guild in so many ways.*

*And finally - after this, the eleventh Magazine in my care, I feel that the time has come to get up, stretch my legs and encourage someone else to occupy the Editor's chair. What an immense pleasure and privilege it has been to keep it warm!*

*Lyn Owen, Editor*

## President's Letter

*Mrs Sally Davis is President of the Guild and Principal of Howell's School. This year's letter to Hywelians explains how important everyone is to the Howell's family.*

I OFTEN SAY that what makes Howell's such a special place is the people: our students, staff, parents, governors and Hywelians. Our wonderful Hywelians offer me much support, add colour and laughter to any school event, and never fail to make me smile when they join us at school. Perhaps it is not surprising, then, that the first large event that we hosted in 18 months would be an afternoon tea in memory of Hywelian Liz McGahey.

Early in 2021, I was approached by Liz's great friend Sarah McJennett, who wanted to hold a fundraising event in memory of her friend. Liz's daughters Tabi and Millie, as well as her sister Cathryn, were thrilled at the idea, so we fixed a date, put the plans in motion and crossed our fingers that it would actually happen.

I first met Liz as a mother to two very young daughters. Both girls joined us at Howell's when they

were three, and Liz was a wonderfully supportive parent, always encouraging both her girls to try new experiences, work hard and be good, supportive friends. Her pride three years ago when Millie was made Head Girl was palpable, and I know how proud she would be that Tabi is our current Head Girl.

I knew Liz as a parent at school, and there are many in our school community who remember her as a mother and as a friend. Liz's friend Sarah told me about what Liz was like when they were at school. She talked about someone who was a loyal friend, very private and part of a tight-knit group of very good friends. Liz was musically talented, playing the first violin in the orchestra and enjoying taking part in concerts and Eisteddfodau during her time here. She was fiercely clever, and very funny in that way that clever people so often are, getting into trouble for making

witty remarks in the classroom to make her friends laugh. Liz was a true Howell's girl: hard working, enthusiastic about all the things that school had to offer her, and always keen to have fun.

It is these qualities that I have been so lucky to see in Tabi and Millie during their time at Howell's. I know how proud Liz was of her daughters, and as their Principal I am very proud of them too.

Being the Principal of Howell's is a great privilege, and I feel great pride to be an honorary member

of the Hywelian family. I hope to welcome as many of you as possible back to school very soon.

*Sally Davis*

*President, Hywelian Guild*



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AT THE END OF JANUARY, I met this magazine's Editor, Lyn Owen, who told me that she would be hanging up her editor's cap once this issue has landed on your doormats. This is the eleventh Hywelian magazine that Lyn has put together, tirelessly sourcing stories and photographs, editing, proof-reading, and laying out the pages before sending them to the printer. I am so grateful to Lyn for all the work she has done with the magazine; I know that many of you look forward to reading news of all your fellow Hywelians.

Thank you, Lyn, for many hours of excellent and generous service.

*Sally Davis, Principal*

### *AGM and SUMMER LUNCH 2022*

*We hope to hold our AGM and Summer Lunch in June of 2022. There is, of course, a great deal of uncertainty because of the pandemic, so we are unable to give further details at this stage, but rest assured we will get confirmation to you as soon as we are able.*

## Dear Hywelians...

*Cordelia Jervis is the new Secretary of the Guild. Here she introduces herself and looks forward to the future.*

I AM DELIGHTED to have been asked to take on the role of Secretary of the Hywelian Guild, but so deeply saddened at the circumstances. The news of Sue Rayner's death was a blow to all of us who knew her.

Having been at Howell's between the years of 1979 and 1986, I was a good few years behind Sue and only met her for the first time in 2016 when Saskia Russell (née Blair) invited me to attend a Hywelian summer lunch. Since then our paths would often cross, either when Sue was taking a brisk stroll through Llandaff to collect her morning paper or, more frequently, at the Cathedral, where she was a much valued and committed member of the community.

After leaving Howell's in 1986, I spent a year abroad in Switzerland learning French before studying Classics at King's College, London. Returning to Cardiff in 1994, I trained to become a primary school teacher. I enjoyed this immensely until deciding to return to university here to complete a Psychology degree and PhD.

During my time at university in Cardiff, I married and had two sons who now attend the Cathedral School. It has been a source of great joy to be reunited with many Hywelians amongst the parents of my sons' friends. It seems to me that we have an instant bond and a wellspring of shared memories, both good and bad, from our time at Howell's.

I think of my years at Howell's with great fondness and I am delighted to be involved in aspects of school life once more. I would like to thank Sally Davis and Hannah Roberts not only for the support they continue to provide for the Guild, but also for the warm welcome and generous invitations they invariably extend to all Hywelians.

Let us hope that life continues to return to normal this year and that we are able to meet each other in person at events both in school and within the various branches. I will keep my fingers crossed and, with luck, look forward to a sociable year ahead.

With every good wish for 2022,

*Cordelia Jervis (née Green)*

## Branch Reports

*The coronavirus pandemic put paid to many activities, including those of our Guild branches. However, the newly-named Thames Valley Hywelian branch has been active, and we have an update from London.*

### THAMES VALLEY HYWELIAN GROUP

I now live in Surrey, and 'The Buckinghamshire, Berkshire, Oxfordshire and Surrey Group' seemed a rather longwinded title. As the River Thames links us all, the name Thames Valley branch seemed more succinct.

In pre-COVID times, nine or ten members of the group usually met for our Annual Lunch in the fifth-floor restaurant at Waterstones in Piccadilly. However, lockdown in June allowed a restricted number of people to be seated together on one table, and travelling into London was less attractive for some, we agreed that the venue should be my new home, Audley Coopers Hill, a retirement village in Englefield Green, near Egham (*below*).

On a lovely sunny day, six of us met to have lunch on the terrace overlooking the acres of grass which cover a large part of the estate, with views towards Windsor Castle and Heathrow

Who knows what next year will bring?



*(L-R) Diana Summersgill (Richards 1952), Jane Howard Griffiths (Howard 1970) Christine Palmer( Ruddock 1957), Elan Preston-Whyte (Jones 1955) Joy Moreland-Green (Rowlands 1955). Ann Lawrence (Pride 1957) is missing from the photograph as she had had to leave earlier!*

This one day, when we had the opportunity to meet face to face to chat about the old times at school and other things, was a bright spot on the calendar!

*Elan Preston-Whyte.  
September, 2021*

### LONDON BRANCH

Our much delayed AGM at Drapers Hall took place on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2021. Some 24 members were able to attend and we were joined by Rachel Eling (Barnes, 1995) from the school. We hope that next year we will be functioning more normally (fingers crossed!), we will have our AGM back in the spring, a tour of the Hall in February and we will plan a lunch in the autumn.

*Diana Paul*

## WHO'S WHO IN 2022

### HYWELIAN GUILD OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE

*As the magazine is now also produced in an online version accessible to all, we have not given contact details. If you wish to contact the Guild, please do so via Hannah Roberts at School.*

#### PRINCIPAL AND GUILD PRESIDENT

Mrs Sally Davis, Howell's School, Llandaff, Cardiff CF5 2YD

Tel: 029 2056 2019

#### DEPUTY PRINCIPALS

Mrs Natalie Chyba, *Deputy Principal and Head of Senior School*

Mrs Judith Ashill *Deputy Principal and Head of Prep School*

#### EXTRAORDINARY VICE-PRESIDENTS

Miss J Turner

Mrs J Fitz

#### VICE-PRESIDENTS

Mrs Ena Davies (née Evans)

Mrs Nicola Davies (née Salter)

#### SECRETARY

Mrs Cordelia Jervis (née Green)

#### ASSISTANT SECRETARY

Mrs Frances Smallcombe (née Gray)

#### TREASURER

Mrs Saskia Russell (née Blair)

#### ASSISTANT TREASURER

Ms Kerry McFarland

#### AUDITOR

Mrs Julia Evans (née Martin)

#### LIAISON OFFICER

Mrs Julia Baker

#### MAGAZINE EDITOR

Mrs Lyn Owen (née Hawkins)

#### MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Mrs Joyce Shields (née Bingham)

#### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mrs Kay Powell

Mrs Helen Graham (née Moger)

Miss Eleanor Jenkins

Mrs Sheila McFarland (née Hamley)

Mrs Anne Hayward (née Bates)

Mrs Catherine Coulson (née Johnson)

#### HYWELIAN/SCHOOL LIAISON

Hannah Roberts

*hywelians@how.gdst.net*



**BRANCH SECRETARIES:**

**LONDON**

DIANA PAUL (NÉE DAVIES)

**BRIDGEND**

DR PAT PARRY (NÉE LENNOX)

**SOUTHERN**

VACANT

**SCOTTISH**

MRS CAROLINE ROBISON (NÉE MCLEAN)

**THAMES VALLEY**

DR ELAN PRESTON—WHYTE (NÉE JONES)

**WEST WALES**

MRS CATHERINE COULSON (NÉE JOHNSON)

**AUSTRALIA**

MRS CHRISTINE ATKINSON (NÉE TREEBY)

*Officers and Branch Secretaries serve in a voluntary capacity, with appointment approved at the AGM. There is always a welcome to anyone wishing to serve on the Committee: please contact the Secretary for further details*

**Our online Appendix—why do we have it?**

AT THE END of some articles, you will see a note from the Editor to go to an online Appendix for fuller versions.

We love having your detailed contributions, whether they are updates on what you are doing, news of those who have died or your memories and thoughts on your days at Howell's. Each magazine is produced in a print version for those who do not have the digital wherewithal, and an online version. The size of the print version is limited by printing and postage costs, which means we have to keep the number of pages below a certain limit; thus some contributions have to be edited to fit the space available. When contributors have taken time and effort to put pen to paper (or more often these days, finger to keyboard) it seems churlish to discard some of their words. We have therefore in latter years produced an Appendix, into which we put the full versions of those edited contributions.

We hope you understand if your article has faced the editor's chop, and that you all take advantage of the online Appendix to enjoy those versions as they were originally intended to be seen.

## Who, what and where

*There was panic in the ranks when we reached the end of October deadline and we only had one item in this section. A desperate second invitation for contributions came up with the goods: here they are, with thanks to those who rallied to the cause.*

### Chineke! Orchestra at the Proms

IT WAS WONDERFUL to hear talented oboist and Howell's alumna Myfanwy Price perform in the Royal Albert Hall with the *Chineke! Orchestra* at the Proms on the evening of Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> August 2021. The orchestra, which is one of Britain's most diverse orchestras, performed a varied programme including premieres of Florence Price's *Piano Concerto in One Movement* performed by Jeneba Kanneh-Mason, and Fela Sowande's *African Suite for Strings* as well as performances of Samuel Coleridge-Taylor's *Overture to Hiawatha's Wedding Feast* and *First Symphony in A Minor*. Myfanwy had several prominent solo passages in the symphony and an even more prominent duet with the pianist in the concerto. What a tremendous evening of music making it was from Myfanwy and the whole orchestra!

**Angela Sutton** (née Fitzpatrick, HSL 1972 -79) writes:

"WELL, WHERE DO I START?" I think I last wrote for the magazine 20 years ago when I was still an officer in the RAF! In 2009 I deployed to Afghanistan and although it sounds frightening, it really

was a rewarding part of my long military career. I felt as though I was doing some good! Unfortunately, I was made compulsorily redundant from the RAF after serving 33 years (I joined a month after leaving Howell's in July 79). There is a lengthy period of notice, but it is still a challenge to find a totally new way of life — a house to live in, and new jobs for both my husband and me as we had to move. My son was made redundant from the RAF on the same day, and our daughter lost her boarding school allowance as well, so we had to move out of our married quarters.

However, we found a lovely place in Margate and have lived there ever since. I set up my own business organising huge outdoor events, the first one being the South East Air Show at Manston on 22 Jun 2013. It was an amazing success and I thought, 'That's it, I've found a fantastic new career!' Unfortunately the airfield was sold for redevelopment, so I had to think again. What was I to do? I had been an air traffic controller for 33 years, and there were no airfields nearby. To re qualify as a civilian would have cost tens of thousands of pounds. I am a good organiser, so I started in Facilities Management looking after the Training Centre, Head Office, Therapy

Centre and main Hospice for Pilgrims Hospices in Canterbury. It was a great privilege, and I learnt not only a huge amount about facilities management but also never to put off to tomorrow what you can do today: often there is no tomorrow!

A couple of years later I applied to be the Estates Manager at a Wild Animal Safari Park. For those that know me well that's got to be my ideal job! Having a bad day? Talk to a giraffe. Want to kick something? Have a discussion with a lion cub instead. It was truly amazing; unfortunately a new CEO arrived and brought in a whole new team.

Once more, I was out of a job without warning. I was head-hunted to work for Southeastern Railway as Facilities Manager for all their mainline engineering departments. It was another steep learning curve, but the company valued their staff and invested in substantial amounts of training.

After a few years, I again had itchy feet (probably something to do with moving every two years when I was in the military). I became the Head of Estates and Fabric at Canterbury Cathedral, responsible for the Cathedral and the other 140 properties we own, many of them listed Grade 1 and part of a UNESCO World Heritage site. So here I am, typing this article with the main door of the Cathedral only 20 feet away through my window. Very special!

I have been married to my second husband for 25 years this year. We have three children, four grandchildren, two dogs, one horse and one pony.

Life at 60 years of age is good."

**Joanna Lewinski** (née Wilson, HSL 1972-77) says:

"I FOUND THE SCHOOL PHOTO [at the foot of this page] while preparing to move to Cornwall—it was a seminal year as we were all nudging 16!

I was able to give up work as an architect and director of RMA architects late in 2020 and move permanently to my home in Cornwall - right at the 'bottom end' just a few miles from Land's End.

I am enjoying having time to paint (see photo) – working on my oil technique but also having time for pottery, jewellery making, a local choir, tennis, walks and runs on the coastal path!" I was lucky enough to celebrate a delayed 60<sup>th</sup>/retirement at Cecil Sharp House (which has featured on *Strictly Come Dancing!*) and caught up with Sally Taylor (now Chase) and Angela Fisher (now Edwards). Are there any other Hywelians in the deep South west?



**Anne-Marie Tuck** (née Williams, GCSE 1995, A-Levels 1997) participated in the Diabetes UK 'Swim 22' challenge in 2020.

OVER THREE MONTHS, Anne-Marie swam the equivalent of the 22 miles of the English Channel over 82 days, swimming in three pools, two lakes and the sea. She raised £1,390 in sponsorship from friends and family for the charity.

For Anne-Marie, the best reward for her medal and certificate was the trophy her proud seven year old daughter made!

During the challenge, Anne-Marie 'broke out' of the pool and started open water swimming; her final swim was in a balmy

14.6°C! She has continued to swim at the Cotswold Water park where temperatures can be sub 10°C, and has signed up to a 'winter dippers' challenge to dip every month during the winter!

Anne-Marie said, "This has been an incredible challenge for me: swimming pretty much every other day; learning to swim in open water; and swimming with so many lovely people! I would encourage anyone who has ever been curious about swimming in open water to look for a local club or coach and get started... but maybe in the Spring!"



**Rosie Humm** (nee Nash, HSL 1968 – 75) tells us of her life in retirement:

"AFTER A CAREER in Civil Engineering, I retired in 2018 with the intention of enjoying as many holidays as possible whilst still fit enough.

Pre-COVID, I managed some skiing, a tour of Jordan and three new (to me) continents – skiing in North America, walking the Inca Trail in South America and a safari in Africa.

Post-COVID, with trips cancelled or postponed, I have explored closer to home – admiring dams and reservoirs in mid Wales and walking the Wales

coastal path – not as exotic but just as enjoyable (and much cheaper!).



*[Read Rosie's affectionate memories of her time in Howell's on P 29 - Ed]*

**Nicola Phelps** was at Howell's School from 1976-1983. A trained optometrist, she has also led an exciting life in the British forces:

"IN MY SPARE TIME, I was a reserve with the Territorial Army from 1997-2005, and from 2005 to the present, I am in the Royal Auxiliary Air Force (RAuxAF). I have been mobilised in support of the Regular Armed Forces on a number of occasions since 2003, the first year that they have mobilised reserve service personnel *en masse* since WWII.

I completed my officer training in 2011, graduating from RAF Cranwell, and I am a Flight Lieutenant in the RAuxAF. I am now a Flight Commander with 4624 Sqn RAF Brize Norton, trained as a Duty Air Movements Officer (DAMO), despatching and receiving aircraft. In May 2021, I was mobilised to deploy to the Falkland Islands to make up a shortfall in DAMOs due to Covid., and arrived here on 25 June, FIXmas day (Falkland Islands Christmas day), the middle of winter.

Since then I have despatched two aircraft a week (the South Atlantic Airbridge, SAA), transporting military and non-military passengers to the Islands. The aircraft are chartered by the MOD from a private company called Air Tanker. Although the SAA is a scheduled

flight, it has been sometimes been delayed or cancelled due to the weather: the Falkland Islands are subject to strong winds called ROTORS that make landing dangerous. There were also cancellations when the runway at RAF Brize Norton melted in July! Op Pitting, the British military operation to evacuate British nationals and eligible Afghans from Afghanistan also affected SAA flights.

I have been able to take part in Battlefield Tours to Mt Harriet, Goose Green and San Carlos, and have walked up iconic mountains such as Tumbledown, Mt Longdon, Wireless Ridge and Sapper Hill.

Wildlife here is spectacular and there are penguins on most of the beaches:



Some Falkland Islands Images

Gentoos all year around and Magellanics, which arrive for summer from October onwards. There are also sea lions, elephant seals and dolphins, and if you are lucky you might see an orca or sei whale. These are experiences I will never forget!

I will be here for

Christmas 2021; because of the strict Falkland Islands Government quarantine guidelines, we have no Covid: we do not have to wear masks, we can hug each other, shake hands and we can party!

I feel incredibly lucky to be here at this time."

## Sue Rayner (1943-2021)

*It was with great sadness that we learned of Sue's death at the end of January 2021. She was one of those people whose life touched those of many others, yet who managed to keep her generosity and selflessness under wraps. It was only after her death that we were able to appreciate just what a friend we had lost. The following pages record tributes by some of those who knew her.*

TO BE HONEST, I am not sure when I first met Sue, but she was a regular at Hywelian events for many years before she moved back to Llandaff. Lively, interested and interesting, and always with a smile, I was delighted she agreed to become Secretary of the Hywelian Guild. Guild members include women (and latterly, of course, men) from all walks of life. They are full of memories of their time in school which, for women of Sue's era, was very different to the school today. She would often say that 'things were different in her day' with the indomitable Headmistress, Miss Lewis. Even so, she had very fond memories of teachers and the girls she was at school with, some of whom remained lifelong friends.

In her role as Secretary, Sue was extremely well organised, conscientious, respectful of tradition but also forward-looking. She welcomed the College becoming co-educational, supported the setting-up of the Facebook page for the Hywelians and the digitalisation of the Hywelian magazine, to mention just a few things.

Sue represented Howell's and the Hywelians at various high-profile Trust events, and also attended branch meetings wherever she could.



*With Head Students, Rosie and Rob, at the annual Trust Reception in London.*



*With the West Wales branch*

Sue, then Susan Davies, was at school from 1954-61. After A-levels, she did Voluntary Service Overseas in Africa before going to Liverpool University. Her older sister Elizabeth also attended Howell's, and Sue's time coincided with her mother being a part-time Geography teacher at Howell's. Both Sue's mother and Aunt Rosalind were former pupils at Howell's, so there was

a strong family connection of which Sue was very proud.

Sue won the Mabel Shaxby Prize for International Understanding, and she was always interested to see who had won that particular prize at Prizegiving.

Sue worked closely with the school, in particular with Vanessa Yilmaz and she spoke at Vanessa's leaving tea. I know she loved working with Vanessa on our Cocktails at Christmas event for all ages of Hywelians, which Sue always attended.

I was extremely grateful to Sue along with Janet, Michelle and Julia, for their sterling work on the Howell's archives. This band of four regularly met every week and under Janet's leadership have created the fantastic displays in the Howell's Boardroom which has now been renamed the Museum. I am confident I have the best archives in the Trust!



*The Archives team*

A true Hywelian, we remember Sue at Howell's with much affection and will always be grateful for her varied and many contributions to the school.

*Sally Davis,  
Principal, Howell's School, Llandaff*

I FIRST MET SUE when I started working in Howell's School in 2012 and it has been a pleasure to get to know her over the past nine years. She was a tremendous supporter of Howell's, a wonderful secretary to the Hywelian Guild and an enthusiastic volunteer in the archive. She was also a great support to me personally, for which I am so grateful. We shared a love of choral singing and often exchanged tales of the repertoire we were learning with our respective choirs. We were both keen followers of the Cardiff Singer of the World Competition and I remember bumping into her in the bar of St David's Hall and exchanging views of the contestants (we were rooting for the same singer!). I loved hearing the stories and seeing photographs of her amazing holidays. I will miss her enormously!

*Hannah Roberts,  
Engagement and  
Philanthropy Officer at Howell's*

AS A YOUNG CHILD, I thought Sue was such a cool aunt! Back in the 1980s she drove a white Ford Capri, which I took to be a representation of her bold, fun and outgoing personality. In the last decade, her adventurous spirit manifested itself through her international travels— New Zealand, Canada, Vietnam, Iceland, Japan and South America, to name but a few destinations. A keen photographer, she took many beautiful photos along the way, but as she preferred to stay behind the camera, there are not many photos of her.

Her generous nature has always stood



out to me. Without fail, she remembered all family birthdays, right down to those of her great-nieces and great-nephews, and gave to us most generously.

Over the last ten years or so, I spent quite a few weekends with Sue. On my arrival, a delicious meal always awaited me, accompanied by a glass of wine, and a dessert. Sue was a very good cook and I always enjoyed her cooking, especially her lamb tagine. Our weekends together were filled with culture: trips to museums and castles, and, a particular favourite of both of us, a visit to the Great British Cheese Festival, which was held at Cardiff Castle.

In 2014, Sue invited me to join her and the Llandaff Cathedral Choral Society on a trip to Bruges. What fun we had, dining out every evening and seeing the sights amid choir practices and performances in the beautiful cities of Bruges and Ghent. She was the librarian for the choir and we sat at the back of the coach on the way back to the UK, rubbing out all the notes the choir had made on their scores! This gave me an insight into her commitment to the many groups in which she was involved. Until this year, I had not realised just how broad her interests and involvement were.

As Sue's family, we miss her very much and know that she leaves a large Sue-shaped hole in Llandaff and far beyond.

*Stephanie Dent,  
Sue's niece.*

SUE AND I LIVED a few hundred yards apart in Llandaff and I passed her house every day on my walk to school. I still remember vividly Miss Lewis's announcement after morning Prayers (1961?) that Sue had been selected to go to Nigeria to be a teacher with VSO before going to university. People didn't do a 'gap' year in those days — hardly anyone travelled, even across the Channel. I was very impressed and thought, 'I want to have an adventure like that when I leave school'. I never did VSO, but did work for Oxfam in Egypt and before that lived and worked in both Canada and Kuwait.

When Sue returned to Cardiff, she joined Llandaff Cathedral Choral Society where I was already a member, and we became friends.

Sue was a lot of fun, with a zest for life, but she was also feisty, with strong opinions. She was very generous and worked tirelessly on so many causes, including Howell's archive material. She is greatly missed.

*Clare Johnson (née Thomas)*



## Putting the 't' in charity

*Hannah Roberts describes a successful afternoon event.*

IT WAS OUR PLEASURE to host an afternoon tea at Howell's in aid of Marie Curie on Saturday 11 September 2021. The event was instigated by Hywelian Sarah McJennett in memory of her friend and fellow Howell's alumna Liz McGahey and other members of the Howell's community who have been supported by Marie Curie.

On arrival, guests had the opportunity to look around the buildings and grounds before making their way to the Sports Hall where a delicious afternoon tea was served. During the afternoon, Sarah spoke with great fondness about her friend.

Liz's daughters Millie (Howell's Class of 2020) and Tabi (current Head Girl) talked about how Marie Curie had supported them.

Guests were also treated to marvellous musical performances from Xinrong Z (cello) and Emily Z (piano), both in Year 7.

Howell's thanks everyone who supported the event which raised over £7,000 for this vital charity. Thanks also must go to the catering and caretaking teams, and to everyone who worked so hard to make the occasion so special.



*A sumptuous spread for a good cause*

## **Howell's has Talent!**

*Well, we've always known that! On this page are poems written by students for the annual St David's Day competition.*

### *The Dreadful Dragon*

*by Samira*

THERE'S A DRAGON in me; the dragon is vile and volatile  
And lurks beneath the darkest shadows. Claws like shining swords from starlight  
His saffron eyes gleaming like embers in the tinker's fire  
A tail like a river; silver in the sun.  
Every day is a battle; some days I win, and other days the dragon wins  
Each time he wins, he grows.  
His head treasures the emerald greens of the forest  
The sapphire blues of the deep sea  
His spikes; the thorns gripping onto the scaly back pointing to the night sky.  
He feeds on my anger and resentment. Today, he is smaller than me but tomorrow  
I know if he gets bigger than me, I shall perish.  
And that is why I have to tame him, as soon as possible  
He shall starve on my patience and love  
He was cute when he was young-but youth doesn't last.  
I hear you say: "There's no dragon in you;  
But believe me- there is a dragon haunting me and you!"

---

### *Inspiration*

*by Tabi*

TO BE INSPIRED by 2020 is an overwhelming ask;  
With pandemic, bush fires, flooding, it's a hugely daunting task.  
There's been worldwide grief and sadness, people torn from those they love  
And for those of faith it's hard to think that this is managed from above.  
But in the middle of these losses, there's inspiration to be found  
The Dragon's Heart's been beating in the stadium's hallowed ground.  
Captain Tom has walked his garden, and we've clapped the NHS  
And strangers helped each other in a time of so much stress.  
My grandma's learned to Zoom-call, my aunt has learned to text,  
They can't suss "Mute", and splitting screens can leave them very vexed;  
But it's just so good to see them, and it's brought home to us all  
That friends and family make your day, even if it's only just a call.  
The nation's pain is shared by all our beating hearts;  
We're closer than we've ever been, never quite apart.  
The loved ones that we've lost are always with us, still  
Shining in the brightness of 5000 daffodils.

## Those were the days...

*These photos were sent in by Gwyneth Smith (née Hopkins, left HSL 1996). The images remind us that past days of disciplined life at School were lightened by moments of relaxation and hilarity.*

*In the letter accompanying the photos, Gwyneth says that she still has the Brownie 127 camera with which she took them. It now hangs in the basement as a curiosity!*

*Facing camera from top: Susan Tudor; Mary Dibble; Rhiannon Lewis*



*Back row L-R:*

*Mary Dibble; Rhiannon Lewis; Sally Anderson; Carolyn George.*

*Front row L-R:*

*Elizabeth Davies; Susan Tudor; Lindsay Faulconbridge*

# Running with a purpose

*Kiryn Howard describes her journey from marathon newbie to successful finisher—and the reason she did it.*

I WAS AT HOWELL'S SCHOOL from 2003-10. Mrs Jones, Head of PE during that time, would confirm that I am not the most natural sportswoman. In fact, I put as much effort into avoiding any physical activity in school as I might have expended if I had just taken part. It had been my attitude since leaving school, then everything changed when COVID-19 came into our lives.

In the first lockdown, I decided to attempt the NHS *Couch to 5k* programme, a running plan for complete beginners which promises to help you gradually work up to running five kilometres. I was not a complete beginner, as I had started (and then given up) the programme an embarrassing number of times in previous years. Nevertheless, my 'ability' (if you would call it that!) to be able to run only for 26 seconds before collapsing into a heap of breathlessness and stitches suggested that I was an ideal person for this programme.

Maybe because of lockdown, or because of the encouragement of my virtual 'coach', Michael Johnson, something clicked this time. On 25 September 2020, I ran my first ever 5k and over the next few months worked my way up to 10k, 15k and then in February 2021, a half marathon. I surprised everyone in my life, but more than anyone else, I surprised myself: I was capable of

running and, almost unbelievably, I was enjoying it!

Running a marathon was never on my 'bucket list'; never something I thought looked fun or achievable, so I had never even considered it. However, shortly after my half marathon and entirely on a whim, I searched the London Marathon online. I assumed that the deadline for applications had passed, and thought I would just look out of interest – maybe next year. The official ballot entry had closed, but a number of charities still had places and, by an incredible coincidence, the deadline for the Parkinson's UK's application was the next day.

Parkinson's UK has been very close to my heart since my Dad was diagnosed with the disease in 2013. It's an awful disease, but he hasn't let it stop him! His mantra is "I have Parkinson's, but Parkinson's is not going to have me" and he has used that determination to inspire countless people. Whether acting as the *maître d'* at a fundraising afternoon tea or jumping out of a plane and being interviewed live on television, he has taken on the burden of this disease with great fortitude.

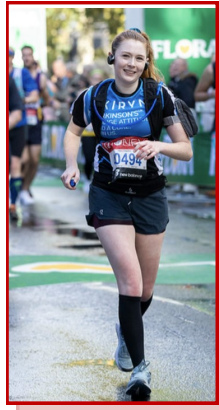
The coincidence of the timing was too much and, having been so inspired by my Dad, I knew I had to give it a go. I filled in my application and without

hesitation, hit 'send'. Two weeks later, I was informed that I had a place. The realisation hit me like a tonne of bricks – I would be running a marathon in just over seven months' time!

I set up my fundraising page and started my training programme. This involved six weekly exercise sessions – a mix of running, cross-training, and strength and stretching exercises. By the end of the programme, I was managing to do

approximately six hours of running, as well as countless hours of swimming, strength work and yoga while doing my full-time job as a company secretary and solicitor every week. It was physically and mentally exhausting, but I have never felt so rewarded.

On the morning of 3 October I woke up in terror - physically trembling, and more anxious than before my maths GCSE or final university exams. I felt I should have trained better, worked harder, done more; amongst all of my fellow participants, I felt like an imposter. However, those feelings disappeared as soon as it was my turn to cross the start line. For the next four hours and 56 minutes, I didn't stop running and - I didn't stop smiling! All along the route from Blackheath to Buckingham Palace were thousands upon thousands of smiling, cheering faces. I had my family and friends there to support me along



the way, but I cannot describe the feeling of being cheered on by complete strangers. In a post-COVID world, that camaraderie and community spirit left me utterly euphoric - although the exercise-induced endorphins might also have helped.

As I approached the finish line, I felt an indescribable combination of relief, pride, disbelief and, more than anything else, joy. All my training had paid off and, one year, one week and one day after I had finished *Couch to 5k*, I had run the London Marathon! It was absolutely the best day of my life – my wedding next year has a lot to live up to!

The personal physical achievement was one thing, but without a doubt the cherry on top was the opportunity to raise over £2,400 for Parkinson's UK. The charity brings together professionals to drive improvements that enable people with this disease to live life to the full. They inspire and support the international research community to develop life-changing treatments. Ultimately, they want to be able to cure Parkinson's, and although we are still a little way off from that breakthrough, the knowledge that I may have contributed in my own tiny way is the greatest reward.

## Hywelians in print

*It's always good to be able to feature success in fiction writing, and this year is no exception.*

**ANGELA FISH** (née Kear, left HSL 1966)

Angela is a regular in our round-up of the Hywelian writing successes. She says:

“Another strange year although we managed to have separate visits by both sons and their wives and we have continued to stay safe at home. *The Fractured Globe* was released in December 2021 and the Kindle version is an international best-seller in several countries. It's really pleasing after all the hard work!

*The Fractured Globe*

questions whether someone can be born evil; what makes people do the things they do, and whether a person can

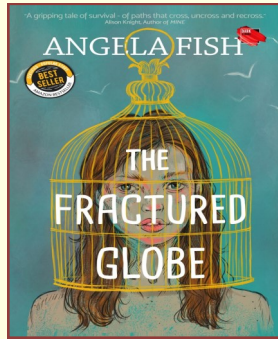
change.

I welcomed having something to occupy my mind, but it's been difficult to focus since. I revisited a children's book [*Molly and the Magic Mirror*] that I was writing a few years ago and that's now on its

way to a publisher, so fingers crossed.

While on jury service in September, I sketched out a plan for another novel for adults; once the idea is a little more solid, I'll be happy to start writing. “I hope that in 2022 school visits and book fairs/fetes can recommence. I have

certainly missed my visits to Howell's Prep School.”



**JANE CABLE** (née Simpson)

Jane is also a regular to this section, and tells us of her latest success:

“Late in 2021, I signed a two-book deal with One More Chapter, an imprint of Harper Collins, to write emotional women's fiction under the name of Eva Glyn.

The first book, *The Missing Pieces of Us*, was a re-issue of *The Faerie Tree*. The second, *The Olive Grove*, is a brand new novel set in Croatia, inspired by a story about a child's experiences of the war in Bosnia.

It will be my first audiobook, and my first to have sold in translation, so it's been an exciting year.”



**NINA SHOROPLOVA** (née McGregor, HSL 1959-1965)

Nina published *Legacy of Trees: Purposeful Wandering in Vancouver's Stanley Park* in June 2020 in the middle of the Covid19 pandemic. Published by Heritage House of Victoria, British Columbia, *Legacy of Trees* is illustrated with over 170 photographs; some are historical black-and-whites from the City of Vancouver Archives, the rest are taken by the author. Ten maps and many lists of the common and Latin names of the trees in various locations in the park enable readers to locate trees referenced in the text. The trees in Stanley Park tell the colonial story of this large urban park, chosen as Best Park in the World by TripAdvisor in 2014.

Social distancing meant Nina could not hold a regular book launch, so she set up a sales table at her front door most weekends from June until the weather was too wet or too cold. Many passersby stopped to chat about the park, peruse the book, and purchase a copy. This augmented local bookstore sales, and *Legacy of Trees* quickly became a bestseller in British Columbia, Canada.

Now in 2021, Nina is thrilled to learn that *Legacy of Trees* is a finalist in the 2020 British Columbia Lieutenant Governor's Historical Writing

Awards.

This is Nina's second book about some of British Columbia's history; the first was *Cattle Ranch: The Story of the Douglas Lake Cattle Company* by Nina G. Woolliams (Douglas & McIntyre, 1979).

Nina and her older sister, Liz Hoole (née Elisabeth McGregor, 1954-59) live near each other in the West End of Vancouver. They chat almost daily, have coffee together on Wednesday mornings, and have recently returned in person to the local Anglican Church on Sundays. There, Liz is a greeter. Nina, as a singer, looks forward to the time when the church choir will be able to sing together once more.

Meanwhile, lessons in Biology, Latin, Geography, History, and singing in the Choir at Howell's School, Llandaff, continue to prove their worth on the West Coast of Canada.



# Academic Achievement

*Below we hear how one Howell's alumna has made her mark in ophthalmic medicine.*

**TASNEEM KHATIB**, an alumna of Howell's and Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford (Medicine, 2004), has been awarded the prestigious degree of Doctor of Medicine (DM).

She told us more about her journey to reaching this achievement:

"My DM studies focused on developing tools to diagnose, repair and regenerate the optic nerve in glaucoma, the leading cause of irreversible blindness worldwide. My undergraduate experience at the Nuffield Laboratory of Ophthalmology at Oxford meant I was able to combine clinical and lab-based research with my surgical ophthalmic training, and I learnt how pre clinical treatments can be taken forward to clinical trial testing through collaboration with industry. I have been invited to join a number of consortia, have published and presented my work internationally, and been able to discuss my findings with leaders in the field about how best to take new ideas forward, which was both stimulating and inspiring.

I have been awarded prizes for my doctoral work from a number of

international academies and associations.

I used the time during my DM studies to promote vision research to sixth form students, in collaboration with pharma companies and research institutes.

One of the strengths of the Doctor of Medicine is its flexibility in surgical



training, so I was able to undertake the Healthcare Leadership and Management Programme at Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and the Judge Business School. I am the Royal College of Ophthalmologists' Simulation Champion for Cambridge, helping

ophthalmic surgeons get up to speed again once elective surgery resumed during the pandemic.

I'm so glad that I didn't listen to those who told me I wouldn't get into Medicine, that I wouldn't fit in at Oxford, and that I wouldn't succeed as an academic or an ophthalmologist or a surgeon despite having a good track record. For every person that has said no, many more have said yes and been inclusive, so please keep dreaming!"

*[Information taken from LMH website]*



## Family News

*We're delighted to record these lovely Hywelian events!*

ON 21 NOVEMBER 2021, **Eleri Davies** married Robert Harper at All Hallows Church, Miskin.

It was a particularly Hywelian occasion, as Eleri was a Howell's student from 2002-09, and is the daughter of **Nicola Davies** (née Salter, HSL 1973-80). Completing the trio in the photo is bridesmaid **Caitlin**, Eleri's younger sister, at Howell's 2010-2017. As Nicola says, the photo spans quite a few years and not a few changes!

The reception was held at St Tewdrics House, Chepstow.



*L-R: Caitlin, Eleri and Nicola*



THE YOUNGER DAUGHTER of former Howell's teacher Helen Davies (retired 2018), **Jessica Davies** (left HSL 2010), married David Crole in Llandaff Cathedral on October 23<sup>rd</sup> 2020, just three

hours before Wales's second lockdown. Only the immediate family were able to attend the ceremony, with former Howell's music teacher David Thomas playing the organ. A post-wedding garden party was held in the summer of 2021, attended by friends and family,

and former Howell's students Chloe Wright, Owen Gwydion James, Kiryn Howard and Charlotte Evenden.

By that time, Jess and David were expecting an addition to the family: Alys Megan Crole was born on October 10<sup>th</sup> 2021.



# Hywelians and Olympians!

*Hywelians achieve in all fields of activity, and here are two who have made it to the very top of their sport.*

HYWELIAN **HANNAH MILLS** (Class of 2006) is the first Welsh woman to win medals at three consecutive summer Olympic Games and the most successful female sailor in Olympic history.

Partnered by Eilidh McIntyre, in a virtually flawless performance in Enoshima Harbour, Hannah helmed the women's 470 boat to add to her silver win in London and then gold in Rio de Janeiro (with Saskia Clark).

Hannah and Eilidh were also voted winners in the 2021 Rolex World Sailor of the Year competition, the second time Hannah has won this prestigious competition.

Speaking at the awards ceremony, Hannah, who is also a sustainability ambassador for the International Olympic Committee, said, "The line-up this year was incredible and I am

so proud of Eilidh for everything she put into this Olympic campaign; she was absolutely the best teammate. I feel privileged to be a female in



*Hannah and Eilidh celebrate their win in Tokyo*

sailing right now, and I really hope to be a part of forging the pathway for female sailors of today and in the future. It is inspirational to be part of a

federation like World Sailing which takes sustainability so seriously and I am so lucky to be involved in such an amazing sport."

Eilidh McIntyre added, "I want to say thank you to Hannah and everyone for your support. We wouldn't be here without the amazing women pushing us."

Well done, Hannah and Eilidh!

IT WAS A VERY EXCITING start to the week on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2021, when Olympic medal-winning hockey player and alumna, **Sarah Jones**, came back to Howell's.

Sarah's first port of call was the Prep School where she was greeted by rapturous applause and cheers from both staff and students. The girls loved hearing about Sarah's time in Tokyo, her career and her time



*Sarah couldn't resist getting stuck in during Year 3's first ever hockey lesson!*

in Howell's, and they were bursting with questions.

She next visited the Senior School where she spoke to students in Years 7, 8 and 9 and enjoyed meeting those undertaking the Talented Athletes' Programme.

Thank you so much for inspiring our students and staff, Sarah; we look forward to seeing you again very soon.

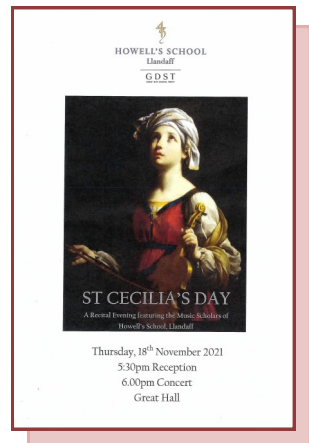
## ... and Musicians!

THE EARLY EVENING of 18 November 2021 was damp and dark, but inside the Great Hall there was music and wonder as pupils entertained and delighted the audience with their talent and mastery of their instruments.

The programme was predominantly, though not exclusively, classical, ranging from Telemann and Haydn to Debussy and Garner. Piano and string compositions made up the majority of pieces, with harp, clarinet and flugelhorn completing the line up.

The confidence and ability of each performer was impressive, particularly as this was for each of them their first public performance.

A retiring collection benefitted the City Hospice in Cardiff.



## Retrospective reports

*Opening the end of term report was always a nerve-racking time. Doing so years later proved more interesting for one Hywelian.*

DURING MY BRIEF CAREER as a prep school teacher (1968-1976), producing traditional school reports for pupils' parents or guardians was a task I approached with trepidation. I wondered if my own teachers had such qualms before committing just a few words to their allotted lines in such documents.

Do many people have the opportunity to read through every one of their own school reports? During the past year I certainly did - finding not only the 20 reports from my time at HSL (1957-64) but all 22 from my prep school (1950-57). In addition, there were receipted invoices for fees, correspondence with the Principals of those establishments, and records of school uniforms (purchased from *E.Roberts Ltd, Ladies' & Gentlemen's Outfitting & Tailoring Establishment*.)

My father was responsible for retaining documents relating to my education – for reasons I'll come to later. When he died aged 48 in 1963, my mother left them untouched where he'd kept them. She put my end of year HSL reports back in their envelopes and placed them on top of the rest, where they all remained until she died, aged 101.

Faced with several boxes of documents from her executor which needed attention, my second career within a pre-tech Civil Service proved useful: I had

years of experience of sorting, collating, and filing, so I set about doing just that with this part of my inheritance.

Amid the contents, including ration books and war-time letters, photographs and newspaper cuttings covering some 70 years, were those school reports. Related documents explained why my father had retained them. A disabled Royal Navy War Pensioner, he was eligible to apply for an education allowance towards my school fees and expenses. To justify this, he had to send each term's report and receipted account to the relevant Ministry department. They would be returned with an official letter and cheque. The allowance ended when I passed the 11-plus exam, but didn't take up the High School place offered. However, he kept all HSL documentation 'just in case'.

Sorting my school records produced two neat files. One, relating to my time at Norfolk House School, Llanishen - Principal Miss R Hagon - commences with: *Account, Autumn Term 1950: Term Fee £4:4s:6d*. The second, relating to HSL, commences with a letter from Miss Lewis in receipt of the five shilling fee for the entrance examination and, after a few more documents, *Account, September 1957: £13:14s:2d*.

And the Reports? '*Generally Good*'

*Elizabeth Fryer  
(née Richards, HSL 1957-64)*

## Looking back with affection?

*Another Hywelian remembers her time in HSL during the 1960s and 70s. Her account will be an eye-opener for younger Hywelians! Rosie's account has been edited—read the full version in the online Appendix.*

I HADN'T WANTED TO GO to the 'posh school'; all my friends from junior school were going to the local comprehensive. My mother said if I sat the entrance exam, I could still choose. My parents probably accepted for me, and I was still undecided by the time of the summer fair.

I was impressed by the extent of playing fields and games courts. Then we saw the swimming pool. Ah! the fickleness of youth - perhaps I did want to go to HSL after all!

That was before I saw the uniform list. The grey pleated skirt had to be long enough to touch the floor when kneeling (mine was longer so I could grow into it) and this was 1968, when miniskirts were the fashion! The pink and white striped blouse was quite pretty, the grey cardigan just plain. The navy knickers and 60 denier stockings were just awful. The winter games uniform was better – a white blouse and square neck tunic with a red sash. This could be shorter – except that mine, of course, was designed to grow into. It would have a future life as a fancy dress outfit.

There was a long navy mac and felt hat for winter, and a blazer, boater, and different games uniform for summer. Completing the list were six different pairs of footwear for indoor and outdoor wear, games and gym, and hockey and lacrosse sticks and a tennis racquet. Cheap this was not. At least my fees were covered by my direct grant scholarship...

The following year, the navy mac and hat were replaced by a mid-blue shapeless mac and air hostess style hat. Then the games uniform was updated to a maroon pleated skirt and white shirt. We cheered when tights replaced those horrible stockings!

I started in Upper IIIIX in September 1968, with Mrs Bevan as form teacher. I, or rather my parents, had decided I would learn Welsh, and I was in Founders (the best house!). There were five other daygirl houses and four boarder houses.

From Lower IV to Upper V, we were in classrooms above the big dining room. During one French lesson I was gazing out from my window seat at the tree outside when Mrs Watkin-

Jones asked what I was doing. "Oh, I was just making up a story about the cartoon" (in the book we were studying). "Well, tell us then". I suppose I'd asked for it.

During one history lesson, a classmate opened a window. "Has Miss Lewis entered the room?" enquired Dr McCann. We looked puzzled: of course not; we would have stood if she had. It seemed that unless the mistress in class asked for a window to be opened, permission could come only from a more senior staff member.

I liked gym lessons, but was in trouble during a gym display for the Governors when I thought a Tarzan call would add to my performance. One of the Governors kindly intervened on my behalf and said he thought it was funny.

We played games every lunchtime, autumn, winter and summer, whatever the weather: we played hockey in the snow and walked around Llandaff Fields if it was too wet for games. Upper VI girls could walk into Llandaff Village at lunchtime instead.

At Christmas, each house produced a Dorcas blanket (named after the biblical character), for which we knitted squares, and made a garment

or toy. When Jayne offered to knit our squares and baby booties for us, we flooded the market in baby booties and it was decreed that only Upper III forms could make booties in future.

We had an annual Eisteddfod. Mrs Watkin-Jones said if we learnt '*Le Corbeau et le Renard*' we would each get a house point. I learnt it, but we didn't get the points. Fifty years on I can still recite it...

In the Upper VI, we had a tiny room at the end of a corridor where we were allowed a kettle and could make coffee. Our form mistress, Mrs (Teddy) Evans, Physics, refused to take the register 'in the cupboard' so we had to use the Physics lab for registration.

I recall that mistresses were on the whole firm but fair. Discipline was strict, and homework and games were compulsory.

Looking back, we received an excellent education. Most of us enjoyed HSL most of the time. We had some laughs and we made lifelong friends.

*Rosie Humm  
(née Nash, HSL 1968-75)*



## Reunion news

*We're always delighted to hear of your reunions—here are two very enjoyable get-togethers*

ON SATURDAY 3 JULY 2021, a group of alumnae from the Howell's Class of 1971 enjoyed a reunion lunch together at a restaurant just outside Cardiff. Head Girl of that year, Jane Chubb, ably assisted by a small team of contemporaries, used lockdown to good effect to trace names and current contact details for their



cohort. It was a really positive occasion with everyone catching up and sharing their life stories of the last 50 years. The range of careers and voluntary work was very impressive which is testament to each one present that these ladies have shone through in life and will continue to do so for many years to come.

HAVING BEEN THWARTED TWICE by Covid, a group of Hywelians were finally able to get together in October, at the West Wales home of **Sian Dickens**. Thanks to the taxi service of her son, Harry, we were able to have a suitably merry reunion. A sumptuous lunch was provided for us, again by Harry under Sian's direction. It was super to catch up on the intervening years since we left HSL. No-one would have guessed that some of us had not seen each other since 1974 apart from the noise as we all shared the vast amounts of news!



*L-R, Rosemary Grimshaw (née Dunn), Sian Dickens, Caro Thomas holding Millie, Deborah Ward (née Buss), Janet Kingdon, Jane Brown*

Roll on our next meet-up in '22.

*Janet Kingdon*

## Scholarly Connections

*Carol Tarr relates how family history research threw up some interesting connection with Howell's School, Denbigh*

WHILE RESEARCHING our family history, I found that two of my husband's great aunts had been Howell's School, Denbigh pupils in the 1880s and 1890s. Minutes of the School Governors meetings are held in the County Archives, housed in the old Ruthin Prison, not too far from our home in Cheshire. I booked a date to do some further research.

Amy, born 1865 and May, born 1875 were two of the nine children born to Charles and Mary Liversidge. He was manager of one of the quarries in Penmon, Anglesey, but died of typhoid in 1897, just before the last child was born. Shortly after he died, Mary took the whole family back to Everton in Liverpool to live with her parents.

In 1878, Amy failed the Entrance exam to enter Howell's as a Pay Boarder. Her Mother wrote to the governors asking if she could re-sit, which she did two months later. She passed, her arithmetic having "improved greatly". Amy progressed through the school, doing well in all subjects, and on reaching 18 she stayed on as a Junior Assistant until 1885, at a quarterly salary of £5.

She then became Governess to the children of the Archdeacon of the Anglican Church of Ireland in Roscrea, Ireland. There she met and married

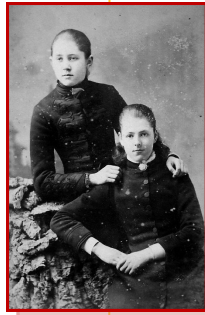
Henry Powell, a gentleman of independent means; they settled into the comfortable life enjoyed by the Anglo-Irish society of the time.

In 1885 May applied for entrance as an Orphan Foundationer. Her request was turned down, presumably as she still had one living parent, but she did become a Pay Boarder in 1887 with "excellent marks in all subjects". Two years later, Mrs Liversidge wrote to the Governors expressing "extreme distress" at her inability to pay May's fees, and that she would have to withdraw her from the school. The Governors resolved to "let the matter stand". The next set of Minutes recorded that Mrs Liversidge had written

with her "very grateful thanks that the Freemasons had assisted with May's school fees". May's father had been a Freemason.

May went on to get excellent marks in all subjects and exams. She stayed on at HSD as a Junior Assistant from 1892-1896, then as Governess until 1901, quarterly salary £10. She moved to be a secondary school science teacher in Gloucester, later writing a text-book, entitled *Elementary Botany*.

In addition to family information, there were other insights into life in general at



May, seated,  
taken in Denbigh



the school. One item made me smile. A stern letter was sent to the Head of the local boys' school, requesting that he prevent his pupils from gathering at the school boundary to communicate with the female pupils of Howell's. Nothing changes!

*May (L) and Amy 1940s*



## Preserving a Llandaff Landmark

*Hywelian **Linda Quinn** describes the work of the Friends of Llandaff Cathedral.*

WHEN HOWELL'S SCHOOL WAS FOUNDED, the first Chair of Governors was Bishop Ollivant of Llandaff Cathedral. Over the years, Howell's has maintained its connections with Llandaff Cathedral, and many will remember the boarders, in their oatmeal coats and brown hats at Sunday services. Annual carol services and special occasions, such as the Centenary, have been celebrated there.

As a Hywelian, former Governor and past parent, I was pleased to become Chair of the Friends of Llandaff Cathedral, a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. Our patron is HM The Queen, and to celebrate the her 70th Jubilee, we hope to plant 70 trees, some in the cathedral precincts, and others planted elsewhere by members.

As Friends, we support the cathedral's heritage, fabric and music, and we welcome visitors. With Friends' help, the medieval Bishop Marshall panel has been restored, framed and placed in the South aisle for all to enjoy. Information panels explain the history of the cathedral. We also donated to the organ

appeal. Friends helped to remove stained glass windows to safety during WW II, so we are able to see those that remain today.

People join us because of their interest in supporting an important building in Wales. For some, it's because family weddings or baptisms have taken place there, or they simply remember happy times. Visitors may be of any religion or none. Members can organise a private tour for other groups.

*Linda Quinn MBE  
(née Davey)*

*If you are interested in joining the Friends of Llandaff Cathedral, you can find out more by visiting the website:*

*<http://www.llandaffcathedral.org.uk/friends>*



*Linda plants one of the first of 70 trees*

## From the Archives—2021

*Howell's Archivist Janet Sully pays tribute to her colleague Sue Rayner, and looks forward to a better year for the archives.*

On 21<sup>st</sup> April, I finally returned to the archives room, after an enforced absence of more than one year. This return to normality was tinged with sadness, as I had lost my highly-valued colleague, Sue Rayner, following her major stroke and subsequent contraction of Covid-19 in January. I must begin this report by paying tribute to her.

Sue had offered to help me in the archives soon after she moved back to Llandaff in 2008, and I was very fortunate to have such an interested, helpful and committed helper. We met every week on Wednesday afternoons in term-time and sometimes in the holidays as well. As a Hywelian, Sue was very proud of her family connection with the school, which her mother Madeline Davies, née White, elder sister Liz and aunt Rosalind had also attended, her mother teaching geography at Howell's in the 1950s-1960s as well. When I wrote the book on the school's history for the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Sue conscientiously undertook proofreading and contributed her own reminiscences.

When Sue started helping in the school archives, they were crammed into a tiny room on the top floor of Bryntaf. She helped when we were able to expand into another room and, more recently, into the top floor of the building now

known as the Hub. Sue revelled in looking at the old documents, chuckling and reading aloud anything she found amusing. Her favourite item was the woollen swimsuit from the 1950s, sent over from Italy by a Hywelian who now lives there. Sue recalled wearing one of these uncomfortable costumes herself and could not believe that one had survived!

Our biggest single project was planning and creating a school museum in 2012. Always methodical, Sue produced graph paper so that we could plan out exactly where each display cabinet and the other pieces of furniture were to go. She made numerous cushions in appropriate colours for the delicate books on display to rest on, measuring them individually for size. We had great fun assembling and dressing the mannequins in old school uniforms, collapsing in giggles as the limbs took on a life of their own! Sue never baulked from fetching and carrying, and had good practical skills, sometimes bringing in tools from home to help assemble furniture. Michelle Ingram, my other current colleague in the archives, and I greatly enjoyed our weekly chats with her, which covered a huge range of topics.

I was thrilled when Sue's friend, Lyn Owen, offered to help me in the

archives: who could possibly be a better successor to Sue? Lyn has been working with me since April and becoming familiar with the type of tasks involved and the materials we have. Michelle has so far been unable to return but is hoping to rejoin us in the New Year, and we are looking forward to having her back.

Since returning, Lyn and I have been quite busy sorting through and filing an accumulation of material, sifting through artefacts stored in Cumberland Lodge since our move to the Hub, and dealing with many queries from Hywelians and other enquirers. We have also received a number of items kindly donated by Hywelians. It was a surprise to receive an email from a relation of Miss Winny, resident in the USA, who asked for information about Miss Winny's niece, Maud. Research revealed that she was a boarder at Howell's for a short time and later was briefly a boarding-house assistant. Howell's School may feature in two forthcoming publications: one enquirer is undertaking research on the history of lacrosse in girls' schools, for which I was able to contribute some

information and photographs, and another is writing a book about school songs and their origins. Fortunately I already had a photograph of part of the original score, and Lyn located a pupil's manuscript (probably from the 1920s), which contained the words of all the verses!

A series of emails from a relation of one of the first thirty orphans, named Harriet Martin, who was at school from 1860 to 1869, has resulted in a mutual exchange of information about her family and her subsequent career; she set up a school in Newport in the 1870s, but it does not appear to have lasted for more than about a decade. It transpires that Harriet Martin was distantly related to one of our Hywelian supporters, Muriel Jeremy.

Let us hope that 2022 sees an uninterrupted year, further progress in organising our collection and more interesting enquiries. We have many copies of most Hywelian and school magazines (except for the 1960s and 1970s), and other donations are very welcome.

*Janet Sully.*



## In Memoriam

*Once again, we have to record the sad passing of Hywelians. As always, our condolences go to family and friends.*

**Susan Elizabeth Swift** (née Murch, 1950-2019)

*This obituary was omitted from the last Magazine. The following tribute is an edited version of the address given at Sue's memorial gathering. A fuller version can be found in the online Appendix.*

With a clever and active mind, Sue loved animals, and enjoyed both her job and the social and competitive sides of playing petanque at a high level.

Sue was born in Birmingham in 1950 to Betty and Stan Murch. The family, including her younger brother Jonathan then moved to Cardiff; Sue always regarded herself as Welsh.

She gained a scholarship to Howell's School, where she captained the Howell's Cricket XI. She went on to Girton College, Cambridge, to read Zoology, and earned a cricket Blue there.

Sue married her first husband in 1972; they moved to Leeds where she did a Master's degree in Biochemistry, then joined the NHS Steroid Endocrinology section of Chemical Pathology, laboratory work she very much enjoyed.

That marriage ended in divorce in 1979; in 1983 she married Alan Swift and they moved to Moortown, where Sue enjoyed gardening, creating a garden in which she could sit and enjoy. She was

also an avid reader, mainly fiction, and both Sue and Alan loved cats.

In 1994, with Sue's brother Jonathan they decided to play in a petanque triples tournament in Brecon. Petanque became a huge part of their lives, both competitively and socially, and they made many friends.

When they bought a caravan, they would combine tournament weekends with visits to family, particularly to Wales and Lincoln.

Sue was the secretary of Northern Petanque from 2001 to 2017, and in 2002, they reached the final of the National Mixed Pairs in Exeter, in spite of Sue suffering from a bad back.

After a period of serious ill health, Sue underwent the removal of a kidney: after a long stay in hospital she was able to return home, and by mid-2017, was playing petanque again - an important milestone. She was also able to visit her mother, Betty, in Cardiff on her own; it was the last time they saw each other before Betty died.

In September 2017, Sue had to withdraw from a university reunion in Cambridge and subsequently suffered the first of a series of strokes and was in hospital for over six months. She returned home in May 2018, severely incapacitated, but preferring to look at her garden rather

than hospital walls.

After a fall early in 2019, she suffered post-operative infection and died on 26 March 2019 in Leeds General Infirmary.

### **Miss Margaret Evans**

Huw Evans, Margaret's nephew writes:

"My aunt was born in 1931 in Pencoed to Ernest Evans, a local chemist, and Olive, a district nurse. Her brother, John, was my father, to whom she was a loving, proud sister.

In spite of ill health in her teens and twenties, she worked for Penybont Council, then for Barclays Bank. Later, she worked in an insurance company. She supported my father in setting up his business.

My aunt had a strong Christian faith, worshipping at St David's Church, Pencoed for over 75 years, and holding a number of positions. She was one of the first women in the Diocese to be granted a licence by the Bishop to administer Communion. She became President of the Church's amateur dramatics group, and helped to organise United Faith services in Pencoed. Margaret was one of the founding members of Pencoed Choral Society; a highlight was singing at the Royal Albert Hall in the early 1980s.

She was happy at Howell's School, and maintained great affection for the school. She was an active member of the Hywelian Guild and was Chair of the Bridgend Branch for many years. In 2013 she was very proud to be appointed a Vice President of the Guild.

Friendships were important to my aunt and she was both kind and willing to help by offering lifts, visiting those unwell or housebound and simply remembering people in her prayers. She insisted on having a four-door car so she could give lifts!

Her family, too, was important. She devoted much of her life to caring for her mother, especially in her later life. When my parents married, my aunt treated my mother as both sister and friend. As our aunt, she was loving and devoted, took an interest in everything we did, and gave us support and advice. We could not have asked for a more wonderful aunt. In her last few years, she was very kindly cared for in a nursing home.

We mourn and grieve her passing; her presence and guiding spirit will forever live and grow in our hearts."

*This is an edited version of Huw's tribute. You can read his full account in the online Appendix.*

### **Camelia Elizabeth Martha Keegan (née Wilkinson, 1930-2021)**

Camelia's daughter Dawn Jones-Norris says:

"Camelia was the only child of Lieutenant Colonel Thomas and Ivy Wilkinson.

She went to the Greycoat School for Girls in Westminster and stayed there after a move to Hounslow, travelling daily by tube to school — a long way for someone aged only six years!.

In December 1939, at the outbreak of

WW II, the family moved to Milton Road, Penarth; her father worked at the Army base in Barry. Camellia gained a scholarship to Howell's School, where she was a boarder during the war years. Fruit cakes sent by her father made her popular with the other boarders! Among lifelong friends was Mary Simpson, godmother to Paul; Mary died in March 2021, after over 80 years of friendship.

From school, she became the youngest student at a Secretarial College in Bond Street, London. She returned to Penarth, and worked first for an insurance company, then as secretary to the Director of the Coal Board in Cambrian Buildings.

In about 1947, she met her future husband Brinley (Brin) James Keegan, an Architect working at City Hall, Cardiff. They were married in 1952 and built their first house in Plymouth Road, Penarth, where their first two children, Paul and Martin, were born.

Promotion for Brin meant a move to Shrewsbury, where they lived for ten years and where their daughter Dawn was born. Camelia worked from home for Sarah Coventry Jewellery, Spirella Corsets and Avon Cosmetics.

In 1970 they moved back to a large comfortable house in Stanwell Road, Penarth. Back at work, Camelia was Secretary to Mr Roland Harris, owner of the Penarth Times, and was there for many happy years. She went on to work

for Bateman Catering (later Grand Met) and ended her career at Cardiff and Vale Enterprise in Cardiff Bay.

Camelia had enjoyed sports at Howell's including cricket and tennis, and had joined Penarth Lawn Tennis Club in 1947. She played for their team and won many trophies over the years, including mixed doubles with her son Martin. She and Brin worked hard to save the Club from closure, preventing the site becoming a housing development, and she was given Life Membership of the club. She was also the first female Club Captain.

Camelia and Brin moved to Cosmeston Drive in 1983 and spent many happy years there. She cared for her parents in their old age and also cared for Brin until his death in 2006.

She was able to enjoy four world cruises and much travel both abroad and around Great Britain before illness prevented further trips. She suffered ten years of Polymyalgia and finally two strokes: she died on the 17 May 2021.

Camelia had a long and happy marriage, a large family - and a dog called Molly. Her son Paul lived with her for the last five years to give her as good a quality of life as possible.

Camelia was well-liked, had many friends, and will be greatly missed."

*Dawn's full tribute to her mother appears in the online Appendix*

**Barbara Trengove (nee Harvey) 1937-2021**

Barbara's sister, Carol Tarr, writes:

"Barbara spent most of her post-Howell's life far away from Cardiff, but never forgot her time there. Whenever we had a chance to get together, the conversation invariably turned to memories of our time at Howell's. Until 2017, she tried to attend the annual Hywelian Scottish Branch lunch, even if it involved a cross-country journey to get to the chosen venue. She maintained contact with several of her closest school friends until the end of her life.

Barbara studied geography at Bristol University. Her first job was as a cartographer with the Oxford University Press, then from 1961-65, she moved to a similar job in New York with Rand McNally. She returned to Cardiff, and married Graham, whom she had met whilst skiing in Canada. They lived in Leeds for a year, then settled permanently in Aberdeen, where Graham joined the University English Dept. They had three daughters, Rebecca, Jennifer and Anest.

Barbara found time to widen her horizons, doing courses to brush up her French, and learn Spanish and Russian. She qualified to teach English as a foreign language, something she put to good use in Aberdeen, where there was a constant influx of overseas workers in the oil industry. She was also an active founder member of the Aberdeen Consumer Group. Their youngest daughter was disabled, and Barbara was very involved in improving the provision

of education, facilities, care and accommodation for disabled children and adults in the Aberdeen area.

In her later years Barbara stoically coped with a range of health problems, and her last three years were spent in a wonderful care home in Aberdeen, enjoying visits from family and friends from near and far.

Barbara was very pro-European: born in Wigan to Geordie parents, brought up in Cardiff, Scottish by adoption, and widely-travelled. At her funeral, her Grandson Hamish played *Flowers of the Forest* on the bagpipes — a fitting last farewell.

She is sadly missed by her family and many friends."

**Joan Gwyneth Douglas (née Dalton)**

Joan's daughter, Diana Newsom, says:

"My mother died in her care home in February [2021], aged 101. Although she was still mentally fit and able to walk around using a walker, she suffered a couple of strokes and died two days later. Sadly, I was not able to see her because of the lockdown, but I doubt that she would have known I was there as she had become very agitated and confused, and was under sedation.

She attended Howells from 1931 to 1936 then went on to train as a kindergarten teacher, although she only worked as a teacher for a year as they were so badly paid in those days. Miss Trotter was the head when Mum was at Howells and apparently was very strict. Several of her teachers were still there when I was a pupil there, including Miss Tickner.



**Mrs Margaret Elizabeth Boothe** (née Dowding, 1930—2020)

Margaret's son Ceri writes:

"My mother was a pupil at Howell's School during the Second World War. Known as 'Dowds' among her school friends, Margaret was a happy, pleasant and popular student with a passion for music and singing from a very early age. She was very proud of her association with Howell's and took great pleasure in recounting her experiences there.

She married civil servant Richard Boothe in 1956 and they settled in Barry, where they brought up their three children, Ceri, Sian and Lisa. Like Richard, Margaret was keen that we acknowledged our heritage and we were educated through the medium of the Welsh language. We were also urged to participate in cultural events such as concerts and the annual National and Urdd Eisteddfodau.

When Richard retired, they moved to their villa in Moraira on the Costa Blanca, where they spent twenty happy years in the sunshine, immersing themselves in Spanish life. Having spent many happy hours singing in choirs in Wales, it was not surprising that Margaret would become a member, then conductor, of a local choir in Spain. She was delighted to be guest of honour to watch the annual Moors and Christians procession.

Always proud of her Welsh nationality,

Margaret would wear a dual Welsh/Spanish lapel brooch, and she even persuaded a local restaurant to hold a 'Welsh Cuisine' day on St David's Day, serving leek soup and Welsh cakes from her own recipe!

Both Margaret and Richard were keen supporters of the Royal British Legion took on the challenge of selling poppies to both locals and holidaymakers alike. A sponsored 'stroll' organised by them around the village proved a great success and raised an impressive total.

Shortly after Richard's death, Margaret returned to the UK, settling in Romsey, Hampshire, to be near daughter Lisa. Her final years were spent actively involved in the local community: visiting places of interest and the theatre and, yes, singing with yet another choir. One of their lockdown podcasts, in which she participated, was played during her funeral service in November 2020, which was filled with Welsh song and the fragrance of masses of daffodils.

Margaret leaves a grandson and two great grandsons. She will be sorely missed and forever loved.

**Mary Michael** (née Hopkin) (1925-2020, HSL 1937-43)

Mary's son writes:

"Mary Gwenllian Hopkin was born in 1925 in Barry, South Wales, to parents of farming families. An only child, she had numerous aunts and uncles.

"Mary won a scholarship to Howell's



School, which she attended from 1937 to 1943, becoming head prefect of her boarders' house, The Rise. She had fond memories of this time, despite it being wartime with rationing and the occasional aerial bombardment nearby.

Mary was more academic than sporty and went on to take a history degree at Cardiff University in 1945. There she met Hugh Michael, also from Barry: they married in 1947. Hugh's work as a mathematician took them to Cambridge and then to London, first to Barnet and then Elstree. By this time they had four children.

During the 1960s, 70s and 80s, Mary accompanied Hugh on many visits overseas, particularly to Canada, which she enjoyed very much. In later life, they became regular members of a United Reformed Church in Barnet, where they had close friends, although they never forgot their roots in Barry, and maintained a flat there for frequent

visits.

Mary was a voracious reader, a habit she continued into old age. After Hugh passed away in 2007, she continued to live in the family home in Elstree until her death, on 12 December 2020 at the age of 95."

We also have news from the London branch of the death of **Gail Crawford** (née Roderick) who was at School from 1955-62. There are no further details at this time.

## Reminders

IF YOU ARE NOT ALREADY a Facebook user, you might like to consider joining the Hywelian Guild Facebook page. It's a lovely way to keep in touch (or even get in touch!) with school friends and other Hywelians.

Joyce Shields, our super-efficient and knowledgeable Membership Secretary would be delighted to give you further details of how to join.

The page is only open to Hywelians and is not publicly available.

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IF YOU WOULD LIKE a printed version of next year's Magazine by post, please remember to send Joyce Shields an A5-sized envelope (C5) carrying a LARGE stamp of the correct postage, by the end of September 2022.

Joyce's postal and email addresses may be obtained from Hannah Roberts at School:

Tel: 029 2026 1825

Email: [hywelians@how.gdst.net](mailto:hywelians@how.gdst.net)

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## The Bronwen Jacques Trust

MRS BRONWEN JACQUES WAS one of the earliest Secretaries of the Hywelian Guild. When she died in 1975, she left her house near Gloucester to the Governors for the benefit of former pupils and ex-members of staff. The Governors decided to sell the house and, with the proceeds, created a Trust fund.

Half the money was given to the Cartref Homes in Cardiff with the proviso that two former pupils or ex-members of staff would have priority entry to one of the homes each year. The remaining money was invested and the resulting income is administered by a sub-group of the Hywelian Guild Committee, chaired by Mrs Davis.

The income is available to help any former pupil or ex-member of staff who may be in financial difficulty, whether or not a member of the Guild. The names of those assisted remain confidential within the sub-Committee.

*Hywelians wishing to apply should address their letter to Mrs Sally Davis.*



