

# Hywelian Guild Magazine

— 2023 —



# President's Letter

IT IS LOVELY TO BE writing this letter to you having seen so many Hywelians at events over the past year. Highlights for me have been hosting the first Hywelian Summer Lunch in three years in the Great Hall; chatting with everyone who joined us for the Christmas buffet lunch before hopping on the bus to Llandaff Cathedral for the afternoon Carol Service, and welcoming over 120 guests to the Great Hall for a very festive evening of *Cocktails@Christmas*. I really do relish meeting our former



memories which I have thoroughly enjoyed reading, thank you to everyone who has shared their recollections. At Howell's we were delighted to take part in Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee celebrations. On a beautiful day before the May half-term holiday, the entire Prep School, clad in crowns



students and hearing stories about their time at Howell's as well as having the opportunity to update them on life at Howell's. It always reminds me of what a very special community we have here.

How fitting that this edition of the Hywelian Magazine includes royal



## Contents

### Page

- 3 .....President's Letter
- 5 .....Welcome from the Secretary
- 6 .....An Editor Reminisces
- 7 ..... Branch Reports
- 9 .....Who's Who in 2023
- 11 ..... Royal Memories
- 15 ..... Who? What? Where?
- 23 ..... The Class of 1999
- 33 ..... News from the Archives 2022
- 35 ..... Obituaries and *In Memoriam*
- 41 ..... Ten Years On!
- 46 ..... Save the Date!

Cover photos: Front: HM Queen Elizabeth II (By Unknown photographer for Government of Canada – Flickr); Back: Cocktails @ Christmas; Hywelian Summer Lunch



they had made, was treated to a good old fashioned street party, which ran the length of the lane from the old tennis courts to the gate on to Howell's Crescent.

I was saddened to hear of the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on Thursday 8th September after such a long and extraordinary reign. At the time of the announcement, an event was taking place in Howell's to launch our partnership with Maggie's. During the evening, Deputy Principal Natalie Chyba made the announcement to the group of guests, which included a number of Hywelians, who all observed a one minute's silence. Howell's opened a book of condolence which was signed by students, staff, Hywelians and governors. I was delighted that so many of our community paid their respects in this way, demonstrating what an inspiration Her Majesty had been to so many people, including myself.

On the morning of Friday 16th September, Llandaff was the focus of the world's media when King Charles III and the Queen Consort attended a Service of Prayer and Reflection for the life of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II at Llandaff Cathedral. Howell's students lined the route from school to the cathedral, keen to catch a glimpse of their new King. The whole school and college turned out to witness this historic moment and



it was a day we will all remember for the rest of our lives.

Finally, if you have visited or driven past Howell's recently you will have noticed that the main building is shrouded in scaffolding. The oldest part of the school site is having much-needed work done to it including a new roof, repairs to the stonework and replacement windows to restore

it to its original glory. As the custodians of this incredible building, we are ensuring it is here for future

generations of Hywelians. The first phase of work should be completed in the spring; do come and visit us and see the results.

*Sally Davis, Principal*



# Welcome from the Secretary

Dear Hywelians,

WELCOME TO THE 2023 EDITION of the Hywelian Magazine. For the first time since 2019 the Hywelians have enjoyed a full social calendar. It has been wonderful to see each other again, whether at the Summer Lunch, the Carol Service or *Cocktails@Christmas*. On all of these occasions we have received the warmest of welcomes from Sally Davis and her staff who invariably make us feel that we continue to belong in Howell's School.

Whilst these events have marked a return to normal for the Hywelian Guild, in one extremely important way there has been an enormous change. After eleven years of dedication, Lyn Owen has decided to step down from her role as editor of the Hywelian Magazine. On behalf of the Hywelian Guild, I would like to thank Lyn for her meticulous editorship of the magazine and wish her happiness and fulfilment in the free time now available to her.

As Lyn explains in her article, the new form of the magazine is intended to maintain the links between Hywelians of all ages and I am delighted to report that this has already begun. The new editorial committee comprises Hywelians from across the generations and it has been hugely enjoyable to meet and share our ideas.

We have been delighted with the response to our request for articles reminiscing about royal events at school. Intended as a response to the Platinum Jubilee, the sad death of Queen Elizabeth II in 2022 and the coronation of King Charles III in 2023, the articles span the years 1947-2022 and demonstrate the treasure trove of memories on which generations of Hywelians may draw. Please do continue to send in news and articles on any subject you think may be of interest in future editions.

Hywelians continue to be threaded through the current life of the school. Chris Henry Breward who attended Howell's between the years of 1988 and 1995 is now a school governor and, at the time of writing, sixteen talented Hywelians have come forward to take part in the performance of Fauré's Requiem in March 2023. I am also delighted to announce that Denise Cook and Anne Campbell have been admitted to the Guild as honorary Hywelians.

Finally, I would like to thank all those who have contributed to the content and production of this magazine. Particular thanks, however, must be extended to Hannah Roberts and Rachel Eling for their hard work, expertise and, above all, their patience.

With very best wishes to you all.

*Cordelia Jervis (née Green)*

# An Editor Reminisces

WHENEVER I SAT DOWN to produce the eleven Hywelian Guild magazines in my care, two things immediately came to mind: how interesting the lives of Hywelians were, and, generally, how long-lived Hywelians could be.

I was always glad that Hywelians were so willing to share their memories, good and bad, of their days at Howell's. It was also obvious that many alumnae were proud yet somehow humble regarding their achievements, particularly older Hywelians, who had grown up in a world where equality of opportunity was so lacking. Girls were expected to teach or nurse, not build skyscrapers or help to get men into space (and they were always men!). It was an immense pleasure to know that Hywelians conquered the world – at least, that's how it seemed when we received contributions from the Americas, Asia and the Antipodes.

It was a joy to have the privilege of editing stories from my erstwhile classmates; it was with great sadness I learned of untimely deaths. Obituaries were an increasingly larger proportion of the magazine content, but served only to underline how many Hywelians had made their mark on the world and had led long and fulfilling lives. The family members who submitted their memories were patently proud of their

mother's or aunt's connection with Howell's.

With the advent of social media in recent years, it became obvious that the way Howell's generations kept in touch with each other was changing, and that the format of a printed magazine was becoming less popular. We experimented with an online version of what was printed, and believe that it, too, was of value.

When I decided that it was time to hand over the reins to someone else, we thought there would be no difficulty in finding a new Editor. We were wrong. Instead, we have established an Editorial Committee which will take on the Editorial responsibilities. The mechanics of producing the magazine will be undertaken by School – and we are very grateful indeed for the support that will enable the magazine to carry on, maybe not quite as before, but certainly in a form which will continue its purpose of maintaining the close links between alumnae of so many generations of Hywelians.



*Lyn Owen  
Editor, 2011-2022*

## Branch Reports

### Hywelians in London enjoy two visits to the Drapers' Hall in 2022

On the morning of Monday 7th February, members of the London branch of the Hywelian Guild gathered in the heart of the City of London to visit the beautiful Drapers' Hall.

Guests met at 10.30am to enjoy some light refreshments before taking a fascinating tour of the Hall led by archivist Penelope Fussell. Incorporating the Court Room, the spectacular Livery Hall, the elegant Drawing Room and the richly decorated Dining Room, the tour was a wonderful opportunity, not only to learn more about the history of the extraordinary building and the Drapers' Company but also the history of Howell's.



Many thanks to everyone involved who made the visit so special.

A couple of months later, on the afternoon of Saturday 23rd April, the London branch of the Hywelian Guild held their annual AGM and Afternoon Tea in the very special surroundings of the Drapers' Hall, London. Memories were shared and lots of laughter could be heard as everyone tucked into a delicious tea which was



enjoyed by all. Hannah Roberts (Howell's Engagement Officer) and Sue Thomas (Chair of Howell's School Governing Board and Hywelian) shared tales of current life in Howell's. It was lovely that alumna and Latin and Science teacher Ellie Jenkins also attended the event. Many thanks to Diana Paul (Class of 1962) and Rosemary Satchell (Class of 1953) for organising such a lovely afternoon.



## Thames Valley Group

Our group, which includes Hywelians living in Buckinghamshire, Berkshire, Oxfordshire and Surrey, decided in May that as Covid was still a risk we would meet once more at my new home, Audley Coopers Hill, a retirement village in Englefield Green, near Egham.

This year the weather was too unpredictable to allow us to eat out on the terrace so instead, the six who came used the private dining room to have lunch. Unfortunately, Ann Lawrence (Pride, 1957), Joy Moreland Green (Rowlands, 1955) and Jacqui Holder (Moore, 1954) had to decline the invitation because of health problems.



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 (née Jones), Class of 1955*



*(Lt to Rt.) Christine Palmer (Ruddock 1958) Jane Howard Griffiths (Howard 1970) Diana Summersgill (Richards 1952), Freda Cook (Parry, 1955) and Joy Alcock (Meazey, 1969). I am just visible in the TV screen as the photographer.*

## Who's Who in 2023

### Hywelian Guild Officers and Committee

#### Principal and Guild President

Mrs Sally Davis

#### 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 Ena Davies (née Evans);

Mrs J Fitz; 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

#### Liaison Officer

Mrs Julia Baker (née Rhys)

#### Magazine Editorial Committee

Mrs Rachel Eling

Mrs Cordelia Jervis (née Green)

Mrs Lyn Owen (née Hawkins)

Miss Katrina Manuel

Mrs Penelope Polins (née Meyer)

**Magazine Design**

Andrew Griffiths Design

**Membership Secretary**

Mrs Joyce Shields (née Bingham)

**Committee Members**

Ms 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](mailto:hywelians@how.gdst.net), 029 2026 1825**Branch Secretaries****London**

Diana Paul (née Davies)

**Bridgend**

Dr Pat Parry (née Lennox)

**Southern**

Vacant

**Scottish**

Mrs Caroline Robison (née McLean)

**Thames Valley and Chilterns**

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 by email at [hywelians@how.gdst.net](mailto:hywelians@how.gdst.net) for further details.*

# Royal Memories

Following the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in June 2022 and her sad death on 8th September 2022, Hywelians were asked to share their memories of royal visits, jubilees, royal weddings or Duke of Edinburgh's Award expeditions undertaken during their time at Howell's.



“ On 6th February 1952, I was a second-year pupil at Howell's School, Llandaff, awaiting our Latin Mistress for our lesson. In came Miss Taylor looking very sombre, and asked us to remain standing, because she had some very sad news to impart. The news was that His Majesty King George VI had died, and we now had a new Monarch who would be known as Queen Elizabeth II. We then observed a minute's silence.

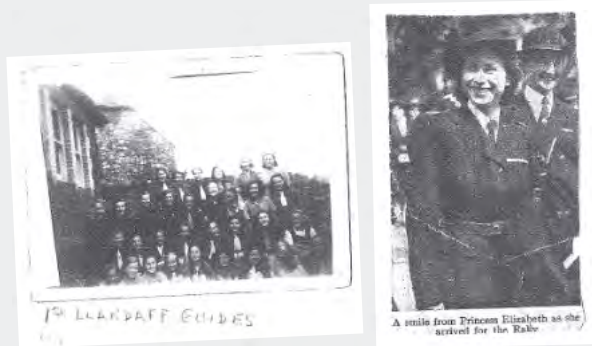
Fast forward 70 years to 8th September 2022, at about 6.30pm, and I am again in Howell's School, Llandaff attending a cocktail party in the Great Hall, with a cocktail glass in my hand. The Deputy Principal, Natalie Chyba, who was hosting the party, drew the attention of those present because she had a very sad announcement to make: Her Majesty the Queen had died that afternoon and we now had a new Monarch, King Charles III. We were invited to raise our glasses and toast our new King, after which we observed a minute's silence.

I and the friend who was with me, although not in my form, were at School on that day in 1952, looked at one another in amazement at such a coincidence! I wonder what the odds would have been about that occurring? ”

*Jennifer Bowen-Jones (Class of 1957)*

## Royal Memories

“It was in 1947 that Princess Elizabeth came to Cardiff for a rally. I was part of the Girl Guide procession and I remember it so well. She did not talk to any of us, but I loved her smile. I was probably fifteen years old at the time and belonged to the First Llandaff Guide Company and I was leader of the Nightingale patrol. Would anyone remember the occasion? I am 91 years old now!”



*Judith Hornung (née Zeidman) (Class of 1949)*

Sarah Trigg (née Winstanley) has sent in what she describes as a “suitably embarrassing” photograph of her with a group of Howell’s friends taking part in the Silver Duke of Edinburgh’s award expedition which was taken in the latter half of the 1998 - 1999 academic year. They are pictured at Whitesands Bay on the Pembrokeshire Coast ready to do the final part of the walk into St David’s. What a lovely memory, Sarah!



*From left to right:  
Victoria, Hannah, Sarah, Sian, Emma*

“When I was in my last year at school (Upper Sixth) my father was invited to a garden party at Buckingham Palace for his work in dentistry/NHS. I was allowed to go with him and my mother but my sister who was six years younger was not allowed to because of her age, about which she was very upset. It was the most beautiful day. Whilst waiting outside Buckingham Palace to go in I was approached by a photographer asking to take a photo. He was from one of the national newspapers and I was wearing a new suit with a midi skirt which was quite a new fashion.

Walking through the palace and into the grounds was very memorable as was seeing the Queen and royal family in person. There was a delightful afternoon tea, and we were fortunate to sit with one of the Queen’s equerries and heard stories about his and royal life. It was quite an occasion.

When the Palace opened up last year for summer picnics in the grounds, I booked tickets for my sister and I to go to make up for what she missed years ago, and we had a wonderful day with a guided tour of the gardens – which was marvellous – and of course a cream tea!”

*Anne Hayward (née Bates) (Class of 1971)*





## Royal Memories

“The only time I’ve ever been near a member of the royal family was in Sixth Form when the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh drove past Howell’s as we lined the streets outside the Sixth Form block!”

*Alexandra Walters (née Mathias)*  
(Class of 1999)

“When I was in the Junior School we had a visit from a royal family member, when we excitedly lined Cardiff Road to wave at her arrival.”

*Louise Hughes (née O’Brien)*  
(Class of 1999)

“I remember lining the street outside the school to wave at the Queen when she visited Cardiff. Prince Charles came to visit, and I remember feeling so proud as he spoke to me and shook my hand.”

*Rachel (née Lewis) (Class of 1999)*



“We waited ages for Prince Charles to walk past the cathedral on St David’s Day. I remember the waiting more than his arrival! It was fun because we were all dressed in national costume.”

*Nikki Wiley (Class of 1999)*

“When I was in Sixth Form the Queen and Prince Phillip were visiting Llandaff Cathedral and we were all allowed out of lessons to stand on the pavement outside the school and Sixth Form houses to see them drive past. We all cheered and waved, and the Queen and Prince Phillip waved back. I remember the excitement and the fun celebratory atmosphere!”

*Mari-Clare Carey-Jones*  
(Class of 1999)

And finally, we were delighted to receive a photograph of a very special visit, from Bec Pugh. Many thanks to everyone who shared their royal memories!

## Who? What? Where?

It has been lovely to receive news from alumnae about what they have been doing since leaving Howell’s.

### Operatic Success

Catherine L Foster shared memories of her fantastic operatic career with Joyce Shields.

“Fancy you remembering my voice! It has stood me in good stead all my life! One of our neighbours when I was growing up in Whitchurch was Greta Weiss, a woman who had escaped Vienna at the time of the Anschluss. She had been a soprano in the Vienna Opera. My sister Janet (still alive at 96 in Switzerland) told me that Greta had told my mother I should make a career in singing – something I really wanted to continue with, but my mother thought otherwise – she told me “You have to be good” and dismissed the subject.

When I went up to Oxford, I auditioned for the Bach Choir, and also for the opera chorus. Usually, the Bach audition ended with you being told they would contact you and let you know if you had been accepted. When my audition ended, I was told that rehearsals started on a certain date, and that I should get there ten minutes early.

Same with the opera – Professor Jack Westrup asked me if I had a top B, after I had sung *Dido’s lament* from Purcell’s opera *Dido & Aeneas* (I had sung that role at Howell’s) I said I didn’t know, but he proceeded to get me to sing up the scale, note by note, and when I hit the top B, he leaped from his bench, opened the door where dozens of students were crowded around waiting to be auditioned, and called out to them, “Did you hear that?”

I was cast as Ascanius, son of Aeneas, in Berlioz’ opera *The Trojans*, an opera that is rarely staged. John Kentish sang Aeneas, Thetis Blacker sang Cassandra, and Arda Mandikian sang Dido – she kept up correspondence with me for a number of years after I had left the UK for Canada. I sang here with Pacific Opera Victoria in about four operas after I moved to the Island on retirement, mostly in the chorus, with the odd quartet thrown in. It has been a lifeline for me throughout my life.

Well, that’s enough reminiscing!”



## The Archaeologist and The Artist

Isobel Jackson-Scibona from the Howell's Class of 2017 has written a fascinating blog post for the Egypt Centre entitled *The Archaeologist and The Artist*.



Having obtained a first-class degree in Egyptology and Classical Civilisations in Swansea, Isobel is now pursuing a fully-funded MSc in Archaeological Science in Cardiff. She has also been given the opportunity to be the sole paid intern at The Egypt Centre in Swansea to illustrate a large collection of yet unpublished artefacts.

The photograph (above right) is an illustration Isobel created of a 600BC



Cypriot clay horse; the piece is set to be on display in the Oriel Science Hub in Swansea (on behalf of The Egypt Centre).

To read Isobel's blog visit:  
<https://egyptcentrecollectionblog.blogspot.com/2022/09/the-archaeologist-and-artist.html>

## Elizabeth Wilcox shortlisted for GDST Alumna of the Year Trailblazer of the Year Award

Many congratulations to Elizabeth Wilcox, Class of 2020, who was shortlisted for the 2022 prestigious GDST Alumna of the Year Trailblazer of the Year Award!

Elizabeth has experienced the triumphs and challenges of being a young person adapting to the world of work in a corporate investment bank after joining the industry at just 18 years old. After only 18 months, she moved into a trading consulting and advisory front office role at JP Morgan while also working towards her degree at a Russell

Group university as an apprentice.

Elizabeth has acted as a mentor for many younger students, giving talks through the GDST, and provided individual support and mentoring to young women aspiring to work in the front office. Through this, she has contributed towards creating a

community of those striving to move into banking, providing support and learning opportunities to those who are pursuing a career in the financial industry and other non-traditional routes after sixth form. Elizabeth embodies the message of inclusivity and equal opportunity for women.

## Beth Fisher becomes an Honorary Fellow at Cardiff University's biggest ever graduations

Huge congratulations to Howell's alumna Beth Fisher who has become an Honorary Fellow at one of Cardiff University's biggest ever graduations.



Famous figures from music, sport, journalism and politics are among those who were made Honorary Fellows at the University's graduation ceremonies in 2022.

Beth was a sports reporter for ITV Cymru Wales News from 2019 to this year and is now freelance. She entered the industry after retiring from international hockey, making history in 2019 when she became the first woman in Wales to commentate on football for BBC Wales.

## Hanan Issa named National Poet of Wales

We were delighted to hear that Howell's alumna and poet Hanan Issa has been named the new National Poet of Wales.

The role celebrates writing from Wales both at home and abroad. Run by Literature Wales, it aims to take poetry to new audiences and encourages others to use their creative voice to inspire positive change. This is a



tremendous achievement. Hanan returned to Howell's in September when she gave an inspirational speech to the Class of 2022 at their Prize Giving Ceremony.

## Clare Johnson runs the 2022 Boston Marathon

Many congratulations to Clare Johnson (née Thomas HSL 1956-1963) who ran the 2022 Boston Marathon. Here is what she has to say about the experience.

"Here's how the Boston Marathon is described in the Lonely Planet's Epic Runs of the World:

'Qualifying for the world's oldest and most iconic marathon is a milestone in itself. Running it, however, transcends athletic accomplishment.'

I have been running and racing regularly at all distances and on all terrains for over 25 years. However, I don't really have the mentality for the training that marathons require and, until last year, I'd only run three, with my first in London 1999 when I was 53.

Fast forward to 2020. I had retired from the office of the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales in the February, a few months before my 75th birthday, and then lockdown came. I got used to my own company on long runs and my running club's virtual races kept me motivated and fit. In October 2021 I ran Newport Marathon in 5h:02m and was delighted to get the qualifying time for Boston.

2022 was to be the 126th edition of the Boston Marathon and it was also to mark 50 years since that 1972 historic race when nine women officially lined

up at the start. I discovered that one of those pioneers, Val Rogeschke, was to run in my age group.

Running Boston was to be combined with a family visit, as my son Owen, his wife Emily and their three boys live a few miles from the half-way point of the marathon. I was going to spend time with them for the first time in nearly three years. I was excited but apprehensive about catching Covid and not being able to run. Monday 18 April, finally arrived, a bright sunny but chilly day.

The first half of the course was undulating downhill, and I had to hold myself back, taking the opportunity to soak up the atmosphere.

The Boston Marathon is held every year on Patriots' Day, a public holiday in Massachusetts and always on the third Monday in April, so the local people traditionally make a big deal of it and come out in support and to party. Even



the police don't seem to have anything better to do!

The streets were lined with crowds cheering and yelling, 'You got this!'. I passed through Framingham and Natick and approached Wellesley which is home to a large women's university. I'd heard about the Wellesley Scream Tunnel and it certainly lived up to its reputation: the screaming was high-pitched and deafening. Suddenly, I spotted my three grandsons in their red rugby jerseys and waving Welsh flags, and I high-fived them as I passed. They lifted my spirits.

The first half had been harder than I thought, but the hardest part was yet to come, with four hills between 16 and 21 miles. By the time I reached Heartbreak Hill at 21 miles my legs were screaming with lactic acid and I felt I was climbing Everest.

There was thunderous cheering from the students of Boston College as I ran through Newton and fellow runners gave me words of encouragement as

they passed. It seemed an age to reach the outskirts of Boston, and miles 23 to 25 seemed to go on for ever. Suddenly there was a sharp right turn and then another sharp left turn into Boylston Street and I managed to speed up a little bit to the finish. My time was 5h:14m, 12 minutes slower than my qualifying time which had been achieved on a pancake-flat course.

Only the first three women in the F75-79 category had come within the qualifying time of 5:05 and I was sixth. It was the hardest race I've ever run, but I felt I'd run the best race I could, and I'd beaten Val Rogeschke by well over an hour. It was a proud day for me and my family.

Is Boston Marathon iconic? Definitely, yes. Does it transcend athletic accomplishment? Maybe. Would I run another marathon? Possibly, when I'm 80, if my body is still up to it!"

What an amazing achievement: well done Clare!





## Hywelian Louise Sadler competes in her first Senior Commonwealths

2022 was a rather exciting year for Hywelian Louise Sadler (Class of 2019), as she represented Great Britain in fencing at a senior level and competed on the international stage.

She was selected for her first Senior Commonwealths, which took place at the University of East London. At this event, she represented Wales and competed during the heatwave which was a challenge of its own. Louise made it to the quarter-finals in her individual event, narrowly missing the semi-finals by one point and finishing in sixth position. She was delighted to make the top eight at a major world championship, her best-ever result. On Friday she competed in a team event, where Louise and her fellow teammates



qualified for the quarter-finals. They finished the day with a podium finish to become Commonwealth Silver medallists!

Louise told us that she is so proud of her team for such an amazing performance! It was an unforgettable experience, particularly with the support from her Welsh teammates and extended community.

Huge congratulations to Louise and her teammates for an incredible and inspiring performance.

## Ellie wins an award after launching two businesses while studying for her degree

Congratulations to Howell's alumna Ellie Llewellyn (Class of 2020) who has won an award after launching two businesses, spotting an opportunity when the pandemic hit in 2020.

Ellie, who is studying Marketing at the University of Exeter, put her studies into action and began selling hot drinks to walkers during the lockdown. Her business



has blossomed and she was one of the winners in the Devon and Plymouth Chamber of Commerce's 30 Under 30 campaign, which recognises and celebrates young talent across Devon.

## Memories from the 1940s

We were delighted to receive photographs of Howell's in the 1940s from Carole Golten (Class of 1974) following a visit to her mother, Judith Hornung, (née Zeidman) (Class of 1949).

The photograph of the girl receiving an award was taken in November 1945; she was Marianne Phillips, Head Girl. The other photograph of the Hockey team was of the School 1st Hockey XI in 1946-47.

The team included: Margaret Stewart, Christine Hughes, Denise Richards, Jean Howell, Dorothy Rees, Barbara Rees, Margaret Griffiths and Sheila Llewellyn.





## Hywelians in Print

"My writing alter ego, Eva Glyn, has had a busy year with my first Croatian book, *The Olive Grove*, being published in both large print and Danish translation. A further two books have

been acquired by One More Chapter, a Harper Collins imprint, both set in Dubrovnik. They will be published in April 2023 and January 2024."

*Jane Cable (née Simpson), Class of 1981*

## Honorary Doctorate

"In January I received an honorary Doctor of Sciences degree from Manchester Metropolitan University. I went to the graduation ceremony earlier this year and was presented by doctorate by the university chancellor. It was a wonderful experience and my husband and I had great fun revisiting where we first met over forty years ago!"

*Anne-Marie Corner*



## Wedding Bells

On 26 April 2022, in an intimate ceremony with just their parents present, Kiryn Howard (2003-2010) married Benjamin Hussey at Bristol Register Office, on their 10th anniversary. They celebrated with friends and family in Devon a few weeks later, including some former Howell's students: Kiryn's sisters Kara and Keely, Jessica Crole (née Davies) and Charlotte Evenden as bridesmaids, and Harriet Taylor and Nour Belal in attendance.

Many congratulations Kiryn and Benjamin!



# The Class of 1999

Katrina Cinus from Howell's Class of 1999 has been speaking with her old school friends and asking them to share memories of their time at Howell's, what they have been doing since leaving and asking what advice they would give to their younger selves!

## Alexandra Walters (née Mathias)

*What have you done since leaving Howell's?*



After leaving Howell's I went to the University of Bath and studied management and French, spending a year in Rouen.

Since university I've worked for various government departments but most recently I took up a new role at the Welsh Government in 2021 as Director of Academi Wales. We are the centre of excellence for leadership across the Welsh public sector, developing leaders of our public services.

I spend a lot of my time at Howell's as my two daughters are in Years 2 and 6. It is lovely to be part of the Howell's family again (if you ever stop being part of it!) and very strange to see my girls performing in shows on the same stage I did in junior school. I live in Creigiau with my husband, daughters and two sausage dogs!

*What are your memories from your favourite school trips?*

There are so many school trips with huge memories for me! I remember the London trip in Junior School when we stayed in Baden-Powell House and Lucy Fisher left her bag unattended in the Tower of London and got into trouble with a Beefeater. The trip to Normandy was fantastic too when we all stayed in a chateau. Llangranog was another highlight, with daily rumours of rooms being 'ransacked' by some kind of ghost but it turned out we were actually just a bit messy! My absolute worst school trip was when we went potholing. I honestly don't think you'd get away with it these days, health and safety-wise, with us squeezing through gaps not much bigger than us. Then we were able to spend the rest of the day exploring the town, but we were covered head to toe in dust, so too embarrassed to venture into any shops!

*What advice would you give to your younger self?*

Be kind to yourself.



## Nikki Wiley

### What have you done since leaving Howell's?



I've done loads! I'm pretty sure it's all led to me being where I am. I have lived in Rome for 14 years and am really happy here. I work as a copywriter and translator. I've got two boys, Fabio and Luca, 13 and 8.

### Have you undertaken any work with charities?

Charity isn't such a big thing over here but it's important to me, so I am on a committee called Lend a Hand. We work with a local church that lets us know what people in the community need and we organise a monthly donation at school.

### What are your memories from your favourite school trips?

Remember when we went potholing? It might have been Year 7, I'm not sure. Anyway, we walked through these massive caves, it was great! But to get out we had to crawl through a small tunnel called the rabbit hole and I was terrified! There was a teacher behind me encouraging me to go through... I wish I could remember who: I want to say Mrs Pexton but it could have been Mrs Davis. Anyway, it was brilliant because I was terrified and excited at the same time... and we all made it through the rabbit hole!

### What advice would you give to your younger self?

My favourite poem, *Promise Yourself*:

#### Promise Yourself

*To be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind.*

*To talk health, happiness, and prosperity to every person you meet.*

*To make all your friends feel that there is something in them.*

*To look at the sunny side of everything and make your optimism come true.*

*To think only the best, to work only for the best, and to expect only the best.*

*To be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own.*

*To forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future.*

*To wear a cheerful countenance at all times and give every living creature you meet a smile.*

*To give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you have no time to criticize others.*

*To be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear, and too happy to permit the presence of trouble.*

*To think well of yourself and to proclaim this fact to the world, not in loud words but great deeds.*

*To live in faith that the whole world is on your side so long as you are true to the best that is in you.*

Christian D. Larson – *The Optimist Creed*

## Alix Long (née Alexandra Jenkins)

### What have you done since leaving Howell's?



I'm the youngest of three children, with two older brothers, and I was the first child in my family to attend university. I am married with two young children.

When I was completing my A levels at Howell's, as part of career planning we completed an aptitude test which revealed I would suit a career in the public sector, which I couldn't imagine at the time, but in 2009 I joined the Welsh Government and have been there since, delivering the programme for Government Commitments. The Welsh Government has offered me a lot of diversity in work, ranging from communications, project management, working directly with Ministers in private office, drafting speeches and briefings for Ministers and policy development. I currently work in the Energy Division, supporting the transition to a net zero energy system for Wales, in a way that supports wider Welsh Government priorities and meets the needs of Wales.

### Have you undertaken any work with charities?

- Breast Cancer Now – various charity fundraisers, including running half-marathons and running 90km in October 2020 during lockdown.
- Women's Health Lead for the Welsh Government's Women Together Network
- Interested in and support social mobility for young people in Wales and the UK
- Advocate for supporting positive mental health
- Climate Change

### Tell us about any overseas activities you have undertaken.

The Welsh Government has been an interesting career, working directly with Ministers, including overseas trade missions.

### What are your memories from your favourite school trips?

- Llangrannog – I drove my quad bike into the hedge and was the slowest going around the track.
- French trip – I opened a beehive which was in the grounds of the Chateau.

### What advice would you give to your younger self?

Be the best version of yourself and be a positive role model for the younger generation of women.

## Antonia Salter

### *What have you done since leaving Howell's?*

Bit of a mixed bag...!

I did set design at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, then realised that it wasn't for me and travelled to Mexico to teach art in the jungle where I discovered a love of nature.

I worked for the Prince's Trust charity among others as an outdoor instructor. Following that, I did a Master's degree in wildlife documentary production with biology, ecology and wildlife behaviour and became a wildlife and outdoor film maker. Now I'm a producer of a large YouTube channel and I make wildlife conservation films for charities.

### *Have you undertaken any work with charities?*

I work a lot with wildlife conservation charities as a film maker. The most recent one was for a citizen science event called Orca Watch run by the Sea Watch Foundation. I also make my own films for wildlife film festivals.

### *Tell us about any overseas activities you have undertaken.*

I've worked as an expedition leader and in logistics in Tanzania and Ecuador, leading teenagers in conservation projects. I also worked as a dive master in Indonesia and Tenerife. My filming tends to be in the UK though now that I'm trying not to fly any more.

### *What advice would you give to your younger self?*

Be confident. Believe in yourself and you can achieve anything. Sometimes a No is stronger than a Yes. Trust yourself. You are stronger than you could ever know.

## Louise Thomas (née Howell)

### *What have you done since leaving Howell's?*

I qualified as a pharmacist, training with Boots then working with for them for five years. I currently work for a pharmacy in a doctor's surgery in Penarth, South Wales. I made life-long friends at Howell's!

### *What are your memories from your favourite school trips?*

Earliest school trip memory was London in 1990! (J3, Mrs Lund)

### *What advice would you give to your younger self?*

Never be afraid to try something new, just "give it a go". It's better to do something and regret it than not try at all. This is definitely something I've learnt over the past 20 years.

## Louise Hughes (née O'Brien)

### *What have you done since leaving Howell's?*

I was in the class of 1999 having started at Howell's in the junior department. After school I went to Reading University to study Film and Drama. I began my career in publishing in London and after a few years I returned to Cardiff. I was lucky to have the chance to study for an MSc in Management (Marketing) at Swansea University where I enjoyed continuing my learning. After gaining my MSc I moved into the housing sector, which I love. I am the Communications Manager at a large housing association in Wales. It is a varied and exciting role. No two days are ever the same. It is great to work in an organisation that makes a difference.

### *Tell us about any overseas activities you have undertaken.*

My husband and I had the amazing opportunity to travel and spend time abroad. We lived in Qatar for a year and a half, and my daughter Emily was born there. We actually met a fellow Hywelian in Qatar who was also living there! Following time in Qatar we went to the Lake District where my son, Joshua, was born. We have been very lucky to enjoy such a range of experiences and opportunities.

### *What are your memories from your favourite school trips?*

Going to London in J3 was exciting as it was our first ever residential. We stayed in Baden-Powell House and saw the sights, it was such fun.

### *What advice would you give to your younger self?*

Worry a little less and trust in yourself. Plus enjoy every second as school days pass quickly!

## Lucy Fisher-Jenkins (née Fisher)

### *What have you done since leaving Howell's?*



After the sixth form at Howell's I travelled through south-east Asia for a few months – in those days we didn't have mobiles or social media so it was such a formative experience! I then went to University of the West of England and after completing my BA in International Business, which also incorporated a fantastic placement year working at IBM, I came back to Cardiff and was one of the founding directors of an international poverty relief charity called The SAFE Foundation. The charity is celebrating its 16th birthday this year and is definitely one of my proudest achievements! I lived and worked in Switzerland and New Zealand in various marketing, PR and events roles, before settling in London a decade ago. I am currently working as a Communications Director in the property sector and running a freelance floral design business!

### *Have you undertaken any work with charities?*

The SAFE Foundation is a Cardiff-based charity which has a UK Global Education Programme, along with helping communities in Africa and Asia access basic human rights, including education and healthcare. The focus is on helping people to fulfil their



own potential, providing them with the skills and tools they need to build a happy and healthy future.

***What are your memories from your favourite school trips?***

My favourite school trip memory has got to be when we went to the Tower of London in Junior School, and I had left my packed lunch somewhere. Suddenly we were all told to line up by some rather scary Beefeaters who shouted my name and asked me to step forward, proceeding to lecture little 10-year-old me about the dangers of mystery unattended items and how they could potentially be explosive devices! I've never done that again!

***What advice would you give to your younger self?***

Advice to my younger self would be one of my favourite quotes from Cinderella's mother – "Have courage and be kind".

## Mari-Clare Carey-Jones

***What have you done since leaving Howell's?***



I'm a wildlife and rural affairs presenter, currently working for Radio 4 and Radio Wales. I started my career with a broadcast journalism radio apprenticeship before working for ITV where I worked my way up from newsroom journalist to a correspondent and newsreader. Since then, I've presented programmes for Nation Radio, the Made TV Network and the BBC.

***Have you undertaken any work with charities?***

I am a member of the International Tortoise Association, I volunteer for the Frenchie and Friends Foundation dog rescue and I'm an ambassador for the Marie Curie Hospice in Penarth.

***Tell us about any overseas activities you have undertaken.***

My husband, Dave, and I have taken part in two overseas treks for Marie Curie, the first in Sri Lanka and the other in Vietnam. They were incredible opportunities to explore the countries, raise money for a charity close to our hearts, and hear the stories of the other people trekking.

***What are your memories from your favourite school trips?***

The school ski trip was amazing! I remember laughing in the ski lessons, the electricity cutting out in the hotel whenever two people on a floor had a hairdryer on and the night at the disco!

***What advice would you give to your younger self?***

Be yourself, believe in yourself, and remember the people who've been kind to you.

## Rebecca Towner (née Richmond)

***What have you done since leaving Howell's?***



After A levels, I headed to London for University. I spent eight brilliant years making the most of my time as a Guys, Kings and St Thomas' medical student and then as a junior doctor.

I was lucky enough to fit in a lot of travelling between studying and work and have so many happy memories to look back on. I even got to catch up with some Howell's friends who were in Australia at the same time!

There is no place like home, so back over the bridge I came and am settled as a GP in Cardiff juggling work, family and friends like so many others.

***What are your memories of your time at Howell's***

I have so many fond memories of my time in Howell's from the first year with Miss Eddy, our Australian German and form teacher who inspired many an impressive cake made by Anna O and showered us with *gummibarchen* (gummy bear sweets).

The memory of the whole year showing unity in Mrs Barton's office under the hall after a mooing noise had been repeatedly played in assembly by someone – but we all took the blame so no one was singled out.

The shock of the stone hall being covered in green carpet.

***What are your memories from your favourite school trips?***

My favourite trip was probably going to France. I still feel for the teachers who came with us. They did a good job of controlling teenage girls let loose on the streets of France, as if we'd never seen boys before. Why would we sleep when we would rather stay up chatting? The excitement never waned when we saw a water tower with gleeful shouts on the bus of "chateau d'eau" multiple times a day.

***What advice would you give to your younger self?***

If I could give my old self advice it would be to be kind to yourself and accept that your best is good enough. But I would also suggest that maybe the royal blue leotard and leggings were not the best choice of sportswear over the option of T-shirt and gym knickers!

## Renee Godfrey

### *What have you done since leaving Howell's?*



I left Howell's to attend Atlantic College in St Donat's to study the International Baccalaureate. I then went onto study Social Anthropology at Edinburgh then Swansea University.

After university, I surfed competitively for two years, writing for travel and sports magazines, before starting a work experience stint at BBC Wales. The BBC were making a series called *Tribe* and needed an anthropologist who knew how to tell stories. I went on to work at the BBC for several years, travelling to some of the most remote and

hostile corners of the planet, making films for series like *Human Planet*, and *Atlantic*.

I wanted to tell stories that communicated important messages about the world we live in, and I found documentaries to be the best way to do this. In making wildlife films, you can captivate an audience in the awe and wonder of our natural world, then get them to fall in love with a wildlife character, and once people care and fall in love, they are engaged and have an invested interest in the home and life of that character.

Climate change was becoming more and more evident ten years ago and I left the BBC to make a series called *Hostile Planet* for National Geographic, which highlighted how quickly our planet is changing today and how wildlife is (or isn't) finding ways to cope.

Since making *Hostile Planet* I have set up a production company, Freeborne Media. I wanted to continue to tell stories close to my heart and communicate important environmental messages. We currently work with Netflix – my latest film *Surviving Paradise* went out earlier this year.

### *What are your memories from your favourite school trips?*

My parents didn't send me on the school trips, they were quite expensive, and we didn't have lots of spare money for things like that. I got my adventures through sport at school though. I have lots of fun memories of sports matches on Saturday mornings at various schools like Westonbirt or Monmouth – they were always brilliant fun and wonderful to be part of the Howell's teams for sport.

### *What advice would you give to your younger self?*

I think the advice I would give myself in my younger years would build on what I was already being told by my parents, I did listen, and it has served me extremely well. Always try and choose a path in life where you are following a passion. If you believe in what you are doing, and love it, you will do it to the best of your ability.

## Teri Sidoryk-Wroblewska (née Sidoryk)

### *What have you done since leaving Howell's?*

They say 'once a Howell's girl, always a Howell's girl' and I can confirm that, twenty plus years later, this is true.

There are so many fond memories from my time that it would take far too long to write about them individually so I will just briefly list a few and hopefully spark some memories of yours.

As a former Kendall girl (we ruled the roost in my day) we lived for rubbing Trotter's and Baldwin's noses in it as we dominated Eisteddfods, sports days and swimming galas – poor Lewis always came last and this led to so much jovial banter.

School trips where we would spend the coach rides chanting "everywhere we go, people wanna know who we are ...", until being told to quieten down, only to start again five minutes later.

Whole school plays and carol concerts gave us the chance to form bonds with the younger and older girls at weekend rehearsals and walks to the Cathedral.

The list goes on, and each memory brings back warm fuzzy feelings. Needless to say, I remain a Howell's girl through and through, and a part of the Howell's family. Even though a lot of the faces have changed over the years, it's fair to say it always feels like going home when I visit, and it always will.

The following Hywelians were two years younger than Katrina, but they were also pleased to share their news and we were delighted to receive it!

## Rachel Bedgood

### *What are your memories of your time at Howell's?*

I was lucky enough to join Howell's in Year 7. However, due to personal circumstances, I left to join my local comprehensive in Year 10.

I loved my time at Howell's. It's only as an adult I can acknowledge and appreciate the skills and behavioural advantages this brilliant school provided! Education is invaluable but it's not always about the qualifications you achieve, sometimes it's about your ability to have the skills to manoeuvre yourself through life and the challenges it presents. Howell's offered these lessons at the core of its teaching.

### *Have you undertaken any work with charities?*

As the owner of Complete Background Screening (CBS), a multi award-winning company in variable categories from entrepreneurship to business through to environment and sustainability, we take our responsibilities and commitment to social values exceptionally seriously and will support our customers in any way possible to help achieve its goals.

At CBS we also like to work with local charities and organisations in desperate need of extra hands and general support. Here are some of the organisations we currently work with:

- Sponsor annual British Legion on Remembrance Day. We also donate staff for up to 10 hours to do 'door-to door' with the Poppy Appeal.
- Financial support for local community projects such as Childcare Groups and the Village Pool where we provide safeguarding services as well as staff and volunteers.
- Partner with a local 'Young Carers' group helping support children aged between six and 16 providing help such as access to PCs, fundraisers, and much more!

- CBS is also subscribed to the Ethical Trading Initiative where businesses are influenced to act responsibly; CBS pays ALL staff above living wage, encourages and empowers 'women in business', offers respectful and flexible working hours, supports single parents by offering a work from home scheme, subsidises childcare costs by up to 40%, and provides Health and well-being programmes!

We are absolutely committed to creating a positive, safe, and supportive environment for all.

#### *What are your memories from your favourite school trips?*

Wow... now you're asking!! The Dolygaer Welsh trip in Year 7 was epic, we took part in lots of outdoor activities and had pretty much free rein to do as we pleased!

I also loved the Italian ski trips. Looking back, we were given so much freedom in foreign places, but I think it goes to show how much we were trusted and the school's expectations for us to represent it well.

Probably my least favourite trip was the Urdd Eisteddfod. It was a fantastic event, and we were thrilled to be through to the final, but the limited accommodation options meant we had to stay in accommodation from the local villagers. Not that they weren't lovely hosts, I just think we were hoping for a bit of independence and some unsupervised antics!

#### *What advice would you give to your younger self?*

I wish I'd have had the ability to see myself the way others did. I felt constant pressure to be better and focused on the things I wasn't achieving, rather than recognising the good things I was getting right. Perception is so critically important to everyone, and yet everyone's perception is different all of the time. I would have liked to tell my younger self to acknowledge and celebrate all the victories, never mind how small they might have been.

### Rachel Young (née Lewis)

#### *What have you done since leaving Howell's?*

I went to Cardiff University and completed BSc Criminology and Social Policy degree. I did charity work for the youth offending team for a few years whilst in university, on the youth community panel.

I then started working for Cardiff University's Police Science Institute as a research administrator. The work we did in the Police Science Institute was related to counter-terrorism, policing, behavioural crime prevention and neighbourhood policing.

I now own my own business as a property manager managing rental properties. I am also a mum to two lovely boys.

#### *What are your memories from your favourite school trips?*

My favourite school trip was the ski trip to France. We had a fabulous ski teacher who took us all the way up to the top of the mountains to show us the glaciers. He had amazing knowledge of the mountains and shared some incredible stories and knowledge with us. I also enjoyed the mini Mars Bars that Mrs Moyle gave us every morning to keep in our ski jackets as an emergency snack.

## News from the Archives 2022

AFTER THE ENFORCED DISRUPTION of the last two years, caused by the pandemic, I had hoped that 2022 would see a return to normality in the archives, but I was mistaken!

My new helper, Lyn Owen, and I had a relatively quiet start to the year and were pleased to be able to go on sorting out material and answering research queries



from members of the public. Probably the most interesting contact came from a lady named Angela Dyer, a volunteer at Leominster Museum, who had recently discovered a suitcase crammed with letters written by Miss Lucy Winifred Faraday, a member of the staff from 1903 to 1923, her five siblings and their parents. These letters were sent to one another from 1876 to the end of their lives. I was able to send a photograph of

Miss Faraday and we received transcripts of relevant letters written by her describing events at Howell's and the subsequent correspondence she had with another former staff member, Miss Ethel Bush.

One brief extract to her mother, on a subject familiar to Hywelians, follows:

*'Jan 23 1904*

*The first of the frescoes in the hall is done; one of the garden scenes from Twelfth Night & no one likes them. Miss Kendall was almost in tears over it yesterday. Also, the hall has been fitted up with oak panelling in the parts where there will be no frescoes & the artist wants to have it stained, in order to show up the paintings better, instead of leaving it to mellow. Everyone, especially the workmen, is indignant at the very idea, of course.'*

Miss Faraday was exceptionally able academically: she had an MA, conferred by the Victoria University of Manchester, for distinction in English Language and Literature Studies. She became a Fellow at Oxford and mastered Icelandic, Danish and Middle Irish. At Howell's she taught English, Latin and German. Lyn and I determined to try to establish whether there was any truth in the rumour that she was related to Sir Michael Faraday. After a considerable amount of research and drawing of family trees, we established that she was! Her father Frederick's great-grandfather was also Michael Faraday's grandfather.



In the spring we were delighted to welcome another volunteer to help in the archives. Mrs Julia Winkler, née Weston Evans, is a former editor of the Hywelian magazine. Her mother was also a pupil at Howell's, as were her two daughters, Helena and Joanna. Julia has a tremendous memory and has all sorts of anecdotes of her time at school, as well as a great interest in the archives. Early in July, Julia and I spent a large part of the day with a Spanish PhD student from Seville who is researching trading connections between England and Spain in the early 16<sup>th</sup> century, so she was very interested to come to school and learn more about Thomas Howell.

I referred in the first paragraph to more disruption in the archives this year. In July we received the unwelcome news that our lovely spacious archives area on the first



floor of The Hub needed to be converted to a classroom and that our archives would have to move to a new base. Everything was packed up in labelled boxes (not by us) and for about five months we were unable to do any more archives work. Shortly before Christmas we were told that a new area had been found for us, in three rooms at the top of Cumberland Lodge, and that everything had been moved there and unpacked. We

are still finding our way around, but the outcome is much better than we had feared. We are hoping for another interesting but more settled year in 2023!

*Janet Sully*



## Obituaries and *In Memoriam*

It is always sad to record the passing of Hywelians; our sympathy goes to the families and friends of those whose names appear here.

### Mary Butlin



"I was so sorry to hear that Hywelian Mary Butlin passed away in July 2021. Miss Butlin attended Howell's from 1954 until 1961 before

leaving to undertake a course at Hereford Teacher Training College and going on to become a primary school teacher in Cardiff. Her association with and support of Howell's continued throughout her lifetime, and I very much enjoyed meeting her at events over the years, including the annual Hywelian Summer Lunch. Miss Butlin was a tremendous supporter of Howell's; she donated regularly to the Bursary Fund as well as various projects undertaken by Howell's. In 2017, she generously sponsored the Drapers' Crest as part of the fundraising appeal to restore the Great Hall on top of her regular donations. I can't tell you how grateful I am to Miss Butlin for leaving a legacy to Howell's in her will which enables us to offer a student a full bursary place in our Co-Ed College which is a fitting way to celebrate her life."

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

### Margaret Clark (née Griffiths) 1931 - 2020

"Our mother was born in Ton Pentre, Rhondda, on 5th January 1931, shortly after her twin sister Beth. In 1942, the two girls joined Howell's as boarders in Hazelwood House. This was wartime, and Mum recalled sleeping downstairs with nine unruly girls crammed into a room, because upstairs was considered too dangerous. She vividly remembered the poor wartime food, too, and the need to fill up empty tummies with unlimited helpings of suet pudding. P.E. played a big part in school routines, and Mum spent hours practising hockey, lacrosse and tennis, captaining several teams.

In 1948, Mum went to Aberystwyth University to study Geography and Botany. In her very first week she met our father Aylmer Clark, a fellow student. After their first degrees, they stayed on for teacher training and Mum's first job was teaching Geography at Pontypridd High School. In 1955 Mum and Dad were married in Cardiff, in a double wedding with her sister Beth and John Griffith. They moved to Chester and Mum taught at Holly Bank School and Goudhurst College. They bought a house in Hawarden, Flintshire and we, their two

daughters, were born soon after.

Mum went back to teaching in around 1970 and became Head of Geography and then Head of the Humanities Faculty at Hawarden High School. As well as being a dynamic and forward-thinking team leader, Mum was known for her kindness to colleagues – lonely French assistants were always invited to tea. She loved her subject, and as children we could name an unusual number of geographical features, as she could not resist pointing them out to us!

In the mid-1980s, Mum took early retirement along with our father, and they returned to Aberystwyth, where they spent many very happy years. She felt it was 'like being on holiday every day!' They rediscovered old friendships, saw more of Aylmer's family who lived locally and made new friends through the Old Students' Association and St David's Church. Very sadly Mum's twin sister Beth died of cancer in 1984.

Well into their eighties, our parents toured Europe every year in their caravan – Mum loved walking and dramatic landscapes, especially the Swiss Alps around Grindelwald. They also took long-haul trips to India, China and Australia, but most exciting of all were their many adventures in the USA, where they would drive hundreds of miles to see natural wonders such as the Rockies, Grand Canyon and Yosemite. In 2020 they celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary.

Mum was devoted to our father and

was a wonderful mother and a brilliant grandmother to her three grandchildren, taking a great interest in everything they did. Although we both lived far away with our families in Germany and London/Cambridge, she and Dad often came to stay, and we had many unforgettable holidays with them in Aberystwyth.

Mum had a gift for looking after people and was always thinking what they might need. She was incredibly well organised and energetic and had a mischievous sense of humour. She liked reading and she baked the best cakes and puddings.

Mum made a remarkable recovery from surgery for cancer in 2018, and her great resilience and determination meant she was able to live life to the full until the last weeks of her life. She is much missed."

*Judith Steinau-Clark and Anne Clark (daughters)*

### **Vivienne Crocker (née Thomas)**

"My mother, Vivienne Crocker (née Thomas), a former pupil of Howell's School, died on Thursday 6 January 2022 aged 90.

Mum came first in the County Scholarship/entrance examination for girls in 1941 (she was born on 3 May 1931 so presumably sat the exam in 1941 or 1942?). As an aside, her cousin Colin came first in the County in the boys' Scholarship Examination in the same year. Presumably there was a

family celebration!

Mum was a boarder at the school from 1942-1948 and remembers being knocked out whilst playing lacrosse, having been hit on the forehead by the ball. The vestige of the swelling remained with her! I don't know what other feats she achieved while at school but from talking to her she was very proud to have been a pupil at Howell's and always spoke with great affection of her time at School.

She fully intended to become an officer in the WRNS and enlisted in 1948, but had to leave on meeting and marrying my father (who was serving in the Royal Navy) in 1950, as in those days it wasn't allowed for WRNS to marry RN sailors!

Mum went on to have two children, five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. She was always fiercely proud of being Welsh and was a keen supporter of Llanelli and Cardiff Rugby Clubs as well, of course, as Wales."

*Andy Crocker*

### **Freda (Paddy) Evans (née James)**

#### **A VERY SPECIAL PERSON**

"On 6th January Freda Evans (née James) died. What a shock. She was always known by her friends and family as Paddy and in her own quiet inimitable way she was just the best.

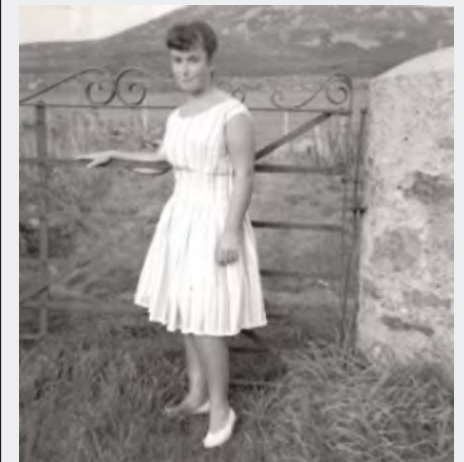
I went to Howell's School in the Upper Fourth (third form) year and was very

lost and somewhat depressed by having to change schools, but Paddy was the Form Leader and was given the specific task of 'looking after the new girl'. She was not that happy

with the prospect, she confided to me once, but with her usual determination and good nature, she decided to make the best of it. From that first day we became firm friends – not only at school, which actually became enjoyable, but permanently. Gradually there formed a group known as 'the Gang' – seven of us – who have kept in touch down the years, and we still meet when we can, and all of us are on the threshold of being 80 years old! Paddy



*Paddy with her younger daughter*



*Paddy in Nefyn on 'Gang Holiday' in the 60's*





*Paddy & Richard in Pembrokeshire on holiday*

was the coordinator! How she will be missed.

We also enjoyed holidays together, for example, in Wales with my family and later with school friends in France too, and with my sister and student friends in Norway and other places. Happy memories!

Our paths crossed often in life subsequently and, in any case, we kept in touch by writing.

Paddy studied Classics at Cardiff University and then did her Teaching Diploma in Bangor where I was finishing my French degree. Then she started teaching and later I joined her teaching in Dr Williams' School, Dolgellau, where we were colleagues for a year or two. Then she moved down South and started at Croesyceiliog School, Cwmbran – still teaching Classics but 'in translation' – there she stayed for quite a few years until she married Richard Evans in the early 1980's and started a new and wonderful chapter of her life.

By this time, I was returning to work in

Madagascar where I had been for some time but had come home briefly to attend to family matters. Paddy was always a source of strength to me, and her friendship was unshakeable. A true Christian, she took a deep interest in my mission, sent out my circular letters for a time and always made the effort to try for us to meet when I was in GB.

I just want to say how much I loved and appreciated her and her lovely family and how her humour and good nature was a great model for us all. Even in her last weeks she was determined to meet up with her friends and see that everyone was all right. We two met in Shrewsbury towards the end of November, halfway between Manchester where I live and Cwmbran where she was. It was great catching up.

Around the Feast of Epiphany, 6th January 2022 she went into God's eternal light. I thank God for her and for so many years of happy friendship. May her peace be that of her family too in their loss."

*Eleri Edwards*

### **Amanda Lanigan (née Richards)**

**8th March 1962 - 25th April 2022**

"I first met Amanda in infant class at Evenlode Primary School, Penarth. She was tall for her age, slim, smiley and freckly, with long auburn hair tied in a high ponytail. We hit it off immediately and became lifelong friends. Our young lives were happy ones, full of fun and laughter.



We were both pupils at Howell's School, Llandaff, Amanda joining in 1974, with her younger twin sisters Helen and Juliet arriving a couple of years later. We were "Penarth girls", commuting daily to school, and quickly



adapted to the very structured education that the school offered. This suited Amanda's diligent work ethic, and in 1978 she obtained very good O Level grades. She belonged to Founders House, but not being sporty, preferred to channel her interests in dance, fashion and music, useful traits for the annual Eisteddfod house competitions. The school uniform of our day was even then, outdated and sombre, with strict wearing of hats, regulation shoes and

tights, certainly not impressing Amanda's sense of fashion, and she was happy to never wear a boater again on leaving! She remembered her time at Howell's fondly and had many happy memories of her time there.

After leaving Howell's School Amanda studied for A Levels at Stanwell Comprehensive School, Penarth, again gaining good grades, and she subsequently moved on to study Geography at University College London.

Her time at Howell's equipped her in skills for the wider world and she had many successful and enjoyable careers in local government, advertising, marketing, conference organisation, a six-month placement in New Zealand, work for the Institute of Mechanical Engineers and more latterly working for an estate agent. Her love of art, fashion and design remained a big part of her life and she successfully completed a course in interior design.

In 1997 she married Stuart Lanigan who worked in banking. Shortly afterwards they had two sons, Luke and George, completing their family. They made their home in Teddington, and more recently in Weybridge, Surrey.

Unfortunately, over three years ago Amanda was diagnosed with metastatic malignant melanoma, and underwent numerous challenging treatments, approaching these with great courage, her mission being to recover from the illness. Very sadly, she died from a



complication of radiotherapy, but was cancer free when she passed away.

She will be remembered for her positivity, determination, fun, love of fashion and dance, but mostly for her love of her family and friends. She leaves behind her mother Pat, sisters Helen and Juliet, sons Luke and George, and husband Stuart. My dear friend Amanda, may you rest in peace."

*Anthea Bee (née Dudley)*

### Betty McKendrick (née Parry)

"It is a great sadness to announce the death of our Mum and wife, Betty McKendrick, (née Parry) who passed away 26th November 2021, aged 89 years.

Right up until she died, Howell's held a special place in her heart, having provided a caring and informative education after much unsettlement during the war.

She leaves three children, Chris, Tim and Liz; (Jon, her eldest son sadly died nearly 20 years ago), her husband David, aged 91 years, and 11 grandchildren, all of whom have fond and loving memories of their wife, Mum and Nana."

*Liz Colyer*

### Rosie Smith (née Dykes)

"It is with huge sadness that I write to inform you that my darling school friend, Rosie, lost her short battle with pancreatic cancer on 5 August 2022. Rosie arrived at Howell's from Elm Tree House in 1989 as a beautiful, shy girl and was an extremely popular member of our class. She was so endearing and had the most wonderful sense of wit and humour. Rosie was kindness personified and a truly exceptional loyal friend. After leaving school in 1994, Rosie and I stayed in touch and often reminisced about the many good times we shared at Howell's – from our shared loathing of lacrosse and absolute fear of physics, to the many giggles we had in the under-hall common room and endless boy dramas. After many years of working in the City, Rosie settled in Essex with her soulmate, Glenn, and their beloved dog, Biscuit. Rosie was so loved and touched the lives of so many. I am honoured to have had her as a friend and will miss her tremendously."

*Alison Bevan (née Jones)  
Howell's, 1989-1996*

# Ten Years On!

At the beginning of the 2022-2023 academic year Howell's Head Students wrote letters to the future Head Students of 2032- 2033. Here is what they had to say!



Dear Future Head Students,

I want to start by saying congratulations on becoming 2032's Head Students at Howell's! I know from my own experience that the application process is long and thorough, so you should all feel very proud to be selected as the Head Students.

It's an honour to be part of the GDST and Howell's in any way possible; as Head Students you get to play an essential role that's unique to any other. The role allows you to be the bridge between the students and teachers, you get to represent the school in every aspect of your life, and you get to be a role model to the younger students. But most importantly... you get your name on the wall!

Being a Head Student is far from an easy role and there will be much that is expected of you. My main piece of advice to you is to have faith in yourself and your own abilities. The teachers that go through the application process have seen hundreds of applicants over the years and have hand-picked dozens of Head Students, so they know what to look for. Believe in yourself to do the best you can and just know that you were chosen for a reason. Confidence is a huge part of the role and as you attend more assemblies and make more speeches, your confidence is only going to grow, so don't worry if you feel as though you are not quite there yet.

I would like to leave you with a quote from our Deputy Principal Mrs Chyba, "Your college experience is going to be like no other, but it'll be rewarding." Enjoy every minute of the opportunity you have been given.

*Daud A, Head Boy*



### Dear Head Students (2032-2033)

Google defines a Head Student as someone who 'exemplifies good behaviour, grades and attendance.' To me, however, a Head Student is so much more than this.

Being a Head Student encompasses everything that it means to be part of the GDST. It means being part of a community, supporting and lifting everyone else up whilst furthering yourself in the process. It means promoting the idea that we shouldn't be limited in life because of how we choose to identify, but rather, that we should be defined by the way in which we choose to act towards and to treat others.

Being a Head Student is a privileged position to hold, as it enables you to make small changes that have hugely positive effects. At the centre of all of your decisions and actions should be an overwhelming drive to make the GDST schools better places, where your peers have every opportunity to thrive and to become the best versions of themselves.

'Head Student' is not simply a title that you have, or a badge that you wear. It is being a leader, a role model, whose priority is the wellbeing of those around them. Above all though, a Head Student is an individual who goes above and beyond to show kindness to everyone they meet, and someone who wants to spread the joy that is stitched into the very fibres of the GDST with all who visit the GDST schools.

You have been afforded an incredible opportunity as a Head Student, so enjoy every minute of it and be thankful for all of the individuals around you that have given you the support and love to enable you to get this position.

*Meg C, Head Girl*



### Dear Head Students of 2032

First and foremost, congratulations on being appointed Head Students! I am sure you are all excited and you should be very proud. Being a Head Student comes with a great amount of responsibility as well as the opportunity to learn a range of new skills.

It is amazing to think that as I am writing this in June 2022 on the 150th anniversary of the GDST you will be six or seven years old! An anniversary is a time to reflect on the past, appreciate the present and look forward to what you would like to achieve in the future. When I look back at how different I was 10 years ago, I am incredibly proud of who I have become and what I have achieved.

I joined Howell's College in September 2021. The experience of moving into the sixth form has played a large role in shaping who I am. Howell's College has helped me be a more confident person and learn how to believe in myself. Being a part of a GDST school in the 21st century is so empowering, especially when you are a girl, as I see on a daily basis how girls are always encouraged and supported to achieve every goal they wish to achieve with the support of their peers and teachers. The Girls' Day School Trust shows girls from a young age that anything is possible. Personally, I am working towards going to college in the USA and joining Howell's has been the turning point in making that goal a reality that is achievable.

Despite not having been Head Student for a long time myself, my best advice for you going forward is to use your voice in the school. This role you have been given is a gateway to allowing your thoughts and opinions to become actions. You are trusted by the teachers and represent your peers to help the school grow for the better. It is important that you are confident that you deserve to be the Head Student of Howells College for 2032-2033. Be yourself and don't let others make you doubt yourself.

I very much hope I will get to meet you and am confident that you will do an amazing job.

*Bethan M, Head Girl*



### Dear Head Students of 2032

Please let me introduce myself. My name is Rhys Smart, and I am Head Boy at Howell's College for the academic year 2022-2023. I study Business, PE and Biology, with aspirations for a career in the business sector, particularly a start-up idea I have in mind, and eventually property. I am currently completing my Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award which involves a year of

volunteering, which I have done coaching with young tetrathlon athletes, a year of physical activity, for which I run multiple times a week with a club, and six months of skills, during which I learnt to drive a manual car. I also work closely with The Rotary Interact Committee – Interact is Rotary International's service club for young people. Interact clubs are sponsored by individual Rotary clubs, which provide support and guidance, but we are self-governing and self-supporting. This means that throughout the year, we run a variety of events to raise as much money for as many charities as possible!

It is nothing short of an honour to be selected as a Head Student here at Howell's this year and I feel I have been given the biggest responsibility of my life. I see the post as being a role model for other students in the school and college. It is also the bridge between students and teachers to get concerns listened to and new ideas implemented. One idea I would like to see implemented is mixing the Year 12 and 13s. I believe this can be accomplished by perhaps having mixed tutor groups, so students socialise and work with the opposite year a few times a week, or a day allocated in September for Year 12 and 13 bonding activities. These allow Year 12s to initiate double the friendships than they would if they were separated into year groups – so, the more the merrier!

One of the biggest things I have learnt is to act confidently in stressful situations such as public speaking in assemblies and presenting in the Young Leaders Team meetings. This can be done by standing up tall, speaking loudly yet clearly, and smiling while maintaining eye contact, as this puts everyone at ease while impressing them with your confidence. This also results in less fear and anxiety, which will improve your

leadership presence and influence on others. This will make you feel happier in your position, as you feel able to deal with any stress thrown at you, and more competent in your ability as a Head Student.

I am looking forward to having this new responsibility, which I can use for good causes I feel strongly about, such as unifying Year 12 and 13 together, which will improve the current and upcoming year groups' college experiences. I am hoping to gain new skills and qualities, which I can take into later jobs in life, such as being a leader, while working in a team efficiently. I feel I will mature greatly with this experience, which will allow me to adapt to work with people older than me. I strongly agree with the Japanese business philosophy of 'Kaizen', which means continuous improvement. It is based on the idea that creating small, positive changes can reap significant improvement, which I can personally benefit from and create the best version of myself for this role.

Good luck as a future Head Student! It is a massive gift as you have been chosen to represent the student body of 2032-2033.

*Rhys S, Head Boy*





# Save the Date!

## Hywelian Summer Lunch 2023

Always a favourite day in the Hywelian calendar, this year's Summer Lunch and AGM will be taking place on Saturday 1st July, and we would love many Hywelians to join us. If you are celebrating a special reunion or would just like to come along to meet with fellow alumni to reminisce, revisit old haunts, find out about life at Howell's today and enjoy a delicious lunch, you will all be very welcome!

The school will be open from 11am so that there is plenty of time to look around the building and revisit old haunts. The AGM will be held at 12.30pm before a delicious lunch is served at 1pm. The school will close at 4pm.

Tickets cost £30 and you can book them by emailing Hannah Roberts at [hywelians@how.gdst.net](mailto:hywelians@how.gdst.net) or telephoning 029 2026 1825. Hannah will be able to book tables so that you can be sure of sitting with your friends, and she will also deal with any specific dietary requirements you have.

## Hywelians 1973-78/80

"Somehow 50 years have passed since September 1973 when most of our class joined HSL (we obviously want to include those who arrived later also), therefore if you sat O levels in 1978 or A levels in 1980, this message is for you!

Please save the date of Saturday, 1st July 2023 for a reunion in Cardiff! More details will follow but please spread the word among your friends.

If you would like to join the email list, please send a message to [hywelians@how.gdst.net](mailto:hywelians@how.gdst.net)

Looking forward to a really lovely time."

*Nicola Davies (née Salter) and Deborah Ward (née Buss)*

## Facebook

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.

## Hard Copy of Magazine

If you would like a printed version of next year's Magazine by post, please contact Hannah Roberts at School on 029 2026 1825 or by email at [hywelians@how.gdst.net](mailto:hywelians@how.gdst.net)



*Hywelian Summer Lunch (above) and Cocktails @ Christmas (below)*





Hywelian Guild