

# Hywelian Guild

Magazine 2024



HOWELL'S SCHOOL  
Llandaff

GDST  
GIRLS' DAY SCHOOL TRUST





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## President's Letter

Last June, I received the sad news of the passing of one of my esteemed predecessors, Jill Turner, on 30th May 2023. It deeply touched me to read and listen to the many heartfelt tributes from her former students and colleagues. Additionally, the reminiscences and updates from our Hywelians have been fascinating, offering insights into your post-school endeavours and enriching our understanding of Howell's throughout the years.

Meeting many of you at various events over the past year has been a highlight of my year. The enthusiasm with which so many return to Howell's is truly heartwarming. One particular highlight was the profoundly moving Spring Concert on Tuesday 19th March which included a performance of Chilcott's *A Little Jazz Mass* and a medley from Schönberg's *Les Misérables*. Witnessing a choir comprising students, staff, Hywelians, governors, and friends was an unforgettable testament to the exceptional sense of community we share here at Howell's.



I am thrilled to announce that, after almost two years of painstaking and intricate work, the restoration of the oldest part of the school building has been completed. The transformation is truly spectacular. Originally opened in 1860 as a school for orphan maidens, this beautiful building boasts a new roof, meticulously repaired stonework and replacement windows, restoring it to its original splendour. Many thanks to Gareth Dyer, Director of Finance and Operations, Fran Keeping, Business and Lettings Manager, colleagues at the GDST and everyone involved for their invaluable contributions to this project; their dedication will ensure that future generations of Hywelians will receive their education in this magnificent setting. I very much look forward to welcoming you back to witness the remarkable results of the hard work firsthand!



The summer of 2023 marked a period of immense pride as our A level and GCSE students celebrated outstanding results. For the A level Class of 2023, who faced unprecedented challenges due to the pandemic, achieving remarkable success in their first set of public examinations was truly commendable, with 34% of all grades awarded at A\* and 69% at A\*/A. Their destinations include prestigious institutions such as the University of Oxford, University College London, University of Edinburgh, Imperial College London, Durham University, University of St Andrews and King's College London. To see a full list of the Class of 2023's destinations, visit <https://www.howellsoedcollege.gdst.net/destination-of-leavers>. Similarly, our GCSE students achieved remarkable outcomes, with 68% of all grades at A\*-A/9-7 and 96% at A\*-B/9-5. Many congratulations to all our students on their remarkable achievements.



This academic year has seen some change in the Leadership Team at Howell's. Two of my Deputy Principals, Natalie Chyba and Judith Ashill, as well as Dawn Sadler, Head of College, have all recently retired. They have all been tremendous colleagues, inspirational leaders and a great support to me for many years and I miss them greatly. I am, however, delighted to introduce new members to the Leadership and Extended Leadership Teams who I am sure you will meet at events in the future:

### Zoe Harvey (Deputy Principal, Pastoral)

Zoe graduated from Swansea University then worked as an English teacher in a large London comprehensive after gaining a PGCSE at King's College. She returned to Wales as Head of Department and Head of Year at Monmouth School for Girls. Zoe is interested in the pastoral impact on teaching and learning and girls' resilience and self-esteem. She enjoys



eclectic film and music tastes, and her favourite novels are *Beloved* by Toni Morrison and *Behind the Scenes at the Museum* by Kate Atkinson – both changed her life. She is married with two sons, one eccentric rescue French Bulldog called Darcy and a ferocious cat, Steve.



### Abby Matthews (Deputy Principal, Head of Prep School)

Abby is no stranger to Howell's, she began her adventure with us more than 15 years ago and, during that time, has held numerous roles including Head of Key Stage 2 and Year 6 class teacher. We are delighted that she has joined our Leadership Team as Head of Prep. Abby is passionate about teaching, and pastoral care and wellbeing is her highest priority. She has two daughters who are both students at Howell's. Their favourite family adventures include mountain walking, camping and bodyboarding at the weekends.



### Hollie Jeans (Director of College)

Hollie studied English Literature at Durham University. Like Goldilocks, she has enjoyed experiencing different types of schools, teaching at single sex, co-ed, day and boarding schools in England and Wales before finding that 'just right' school at Howell's. Joining Howell's in 2024, she has returned to Wales after spending five years as Deputy Head of Sixth Form at Wycombe Abbey School. She feels privileged to lead the College - the 'jewel in the crown' of Howell's - supporting students to achieve autonomy and balance in their lives, become compassionate leaders and encouraging them to take on enriching and challenging opportunities. A keen singer, she is an enthusiastic new member of our College Choir and enjoys running, travelling and reading. Her favourite authors are Ian McEwan and Kazuo Ishiguro, although reading Richard Osman's Murder Club books are also a guilty pleasure.

Lastly, I extend my sincere gratitude to you, our Hywelians, for your unwavering support in various capacities, whether through attending events, participating in career events and mentoring programmes, contributing to the magazine, volunteering in the archives, or generously donating to the Bursary Fund and other charitable endeavours. Since September, your contributions have helped us raise over £94,000 for the Bursary Fund, enriching the lives of our students and the broader community. For more information about the Bursary Fund, please visit: <https://www.howells-cardiff.gdst.net/Bursaries>. Thank you all.

**Sally Davis,  
Principal**

*Sally Davis*



## Welcome from the Secretary



### Dear Hywelians,

Welcome to the 2024 edition of the Hywelian Magazine. This issue is dedicated to the memory of Miss Jill Turner, Headmistress of Howell's School, Llandaff, between 1978 and 1991. Looking at the photograph of Miss Turner on the cover of this year's Magazine I am sure those of you who remember her as Headmistress will have been moved, and perhaps a little unnerved, to find her wise and penetrating stare fixed upon you once again. Like me, you may have also been jolted into feelings of nostalgia about your years as a teenager at Howell's during the 1980s.

Looking back, they were years of seismic change outside of the School and also within. The articles included in this edition from Glynis Owen and Janet Sully list the ambitious and pioneering decisions Miss Turner made for the School, transforming and equipping it for the bright future it now enjoys. These articles also shed light on Miss Turner's life before and after her time at Howell's School and it is wonderful to hear of the long and happy retirement she managed to enjoy.

You will notice in the Branch Update Reports that Pat Perry (née Lennox) shares her regret that the time has come for the Bridgend Branch to close. On behalf of the Hywelian Guild I would like to thank Pat for all she has done to keep the Branch going in recent years and to extend to her, and the Branch members, every good wish for the future.

At the time of writing, Hywelians have been invited to take part in the massed choir of students, staff, friends and governors which will perform at this year's Spring Concert. Those of you who attended or took part in last year's concert will know that it was a splendid and touching occasion; not simply for the beauty of the music, but also for the spirit of the event which bound together so many generations of Howell's pupils.

The Summer Lunch also provides an opportunity for Hywelians to gather together, and I would urge you to contact others in your year group and arrange a table together at this year's Lunch on Saturday, June 29th. It is always a special occasion, full of chat and laughter. I was extremely sorry that I could not attend the 2023 Summer Lunch and I would like to thank Frances Smallcombe who very kindly chaired the meeting on my behalf.

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

With very best wishes to you all,

**Cordelia Jervis (née Green)**

## WHO'S WHO 2024

### Hywelian Guild Officers and Committee

#### Principal and Guild President

Mrs Sally Davis

#### Deputy Principals

Mrs Cathy Darnton, Deputy Principal (Academic)

Mrs Zoe Harvey, Deputy Principal (Pastoral)

Mrs Abby Matthews, Deputy Principal  
(Head of Prep School)

#### Extraordinary Vice-Presidents

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

#### Magazine Design

Mark Edwards (POLAR 10)

#### 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 Calan McGreevy (née Davies)

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 | Dr Elan Preston—Whyte (née Jones)

West Wales | Mrs Catherine Coulson (née Johnson)

Australia | Mrs Christine Atkinson (née Treeby)

### Why not join us?

As you already know, Howell's is a family of all ages and the Hywelian Guild continues this long after we've left school. From the Summer Lunch to Cocktails at Christmas, it's lovely to get together and chat to other Hywelians who attended Howell's before us and to hear how life in school was for them and how different it was for us. The Guild's committee enables this to continue and we want to keep the broad age range. We are both part of the committee and wanted to give an idea of what this looks like, in the hope of encouraging new members, of all ages, to join. We meet just twice a year, over zoom, to arrange events like the Summer Lunch or Cocktails at Christmas. The Summer Lunch is always lovely, with the opportunity to catch up with old classmates, have a delicious lunch, hear all about what is going on in the school at the moment from Mrs Davis, look around the school and meet other Hywelians from different years. Cocktails at Christmas adds a bit of extra glamour to the festive season. Career-wise all meetings events are also an excellent opportunity for networking. We would very much welcome new committee members to help us represent the younger years! Give it some serious thought!

Please contact the secretary by email at [hywelians@how.gdst.net](mailto:hywelians@how.gdst.net) or telephone **029 2026 1825** for further details.

**Kerry and Eleanor**



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 by emailing Hannah at: [hywelians@how.gdst.net](mailto:hywelians@how.gdst.net) or telephoning **029 2026 1825**.

## Branch Reports

### Bridgend Branch

"I am sorry to say that we have decided to discontinue the Bridgend branch in this its 70th year. We have, for several years, had decreasing numbers due to age and infirmity. Personal health reasons and the recent death of my husband have also contributed to the decision.

The branch started in 1953 with 24 members and with three meetings a year. The Christmas dinner was held each year in the home of Dr Doreen Annear who was Treasurer and the other meetings in either the Wyndham Hotel or the Dunraven Hotel in Bridgend. Later, meetings were held in the various members' homes. Our 21st anniversary was held in Quaintways in Llantwit and the 25th in the York Hotel in Bridgend. In 1996, it was decided to combine the Christmas lunch with an Advent church service, and, for many years, this was held in Holy Cross Church Cowbridge followed by lunch in the Bear Hotel. Our 50-year anniversary was held in school with lunch and a cake which was cut by Bess Jones, the first Secretary of the branch. Our 60th anniversary was also held in the Great Hall. Our last meeting was in November 2021.

Any money left in our account will be donated to the school."

**Pat Parry (née Lennox)**

### West Wales Branch

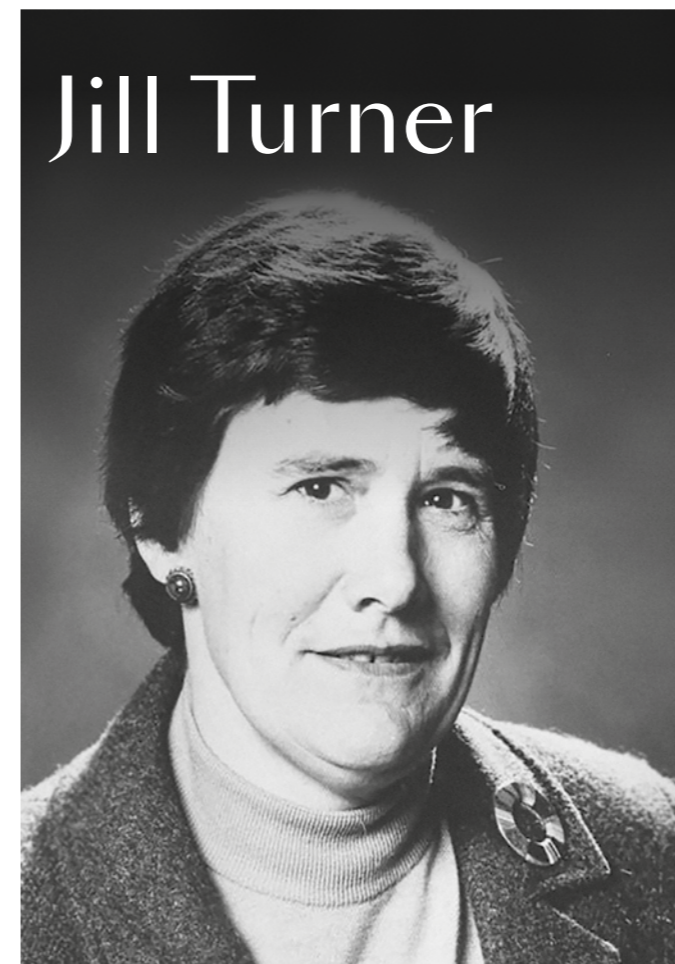
"After a four-year gap, West Wales branch finally restarted our official (though very relaxed) meetings in October 2023!

Nine of us gathered at Anne Rees' Loughor home where we enjoyed a delicious buffet lunch and a long-overdue catch up - a special mention must go to Mererid Hunt (née John 1960-63) who travelled down from Yorkshire for the day just to attend!

I'm saddened to have to report the loss of two of our long-standing members, Anne's mum Marianne Rees (née Phillips, 1938-45) who for many years was our Branch Treasurer, and Shirley Jenkins (née Howells, 1945-52.) Both were regular attenders at our meetings and will be greatly missed.

We have agreed to meet in Spring 2024, probably in Llandeilo, and would be delighted to welcome any Hywelians who would care to come along. Please contact me to request an invitation as numbers are limited."

**Catherine Coulson (née Johnson)**



“I was saddened to hear that former headmistress, Miss Jill Turner, had died on 30th May 2023 in Newtown, Powys.

Miss Turner was born on 10th March 1931. She was educated at Guildford County School for Girls and London University where she graduated in Mathematics. After she had achieved her teaching qualification in Cambridge, she taught at Croydon High, a fellow GDST School, and then worked as a Government Education Officer in Kenya. When she returned to the UK she was appointed Head of Department and then Deputy Headmistress at South Hampstead High School, another GDST school. Before she took over the headship at Howell's from Miss Lewis in 1978, she spent eight years as Headmistress of Brighton and Hove High School, also a GDST school.

At Howell's, Miss Turner lived in a self-contained flat on the first floor of the oldest part of the school that overlooked the main entrance where she lived with her Labrador, Meg. Miss Turner's time at Howell's heralded a substantial period of modernisation which included a new building with nine classrooms and more laboratories, an extended library and a new cafeteria. Hazelwood, a former boarding house, became the base for a new Junior School and Cumberland Lodge was

converted into a new home for the music department. By the time of her retirement in 1991, Howell's was at the forefront of education practice with enviable facilities, looking ahead towards the new millennium under the new headship of Mrs Jane Fitz. It has been an honour to follow in the footsteps of Miss Turner and all the extraordinary women who have led this special school.



In the summer of 2023, we were delighted to receive a plate from Miss Turner's nephew. The beautiful plate was created by the studio potter Mr Gary Ward, who was art teacher at Howell's at the time, and was presented to Miss Turner on her retirement in 1991. We will treasure this unique piece of Hywelian history and are enormously grateful to her nephew for passing it on to Howell's.

It has been wonderful to read tributes to Miss Turner from alumni and former staff members which I hope you also enjoy reading."

**Sally Davis, Principal**



“It was a great privilege to be Jill Turner’s deputy. She was an amazing individual - a force of nature, a human dynamo, formidable yet compassionate, immensely talented yet modest about her achievements, excellent company with a wry sense of humour.

Jill was brought up in East Horsley, near Guildford, Surrey in a very close, happy family. She studied mathematics at Westfield College, London and then education at Cambridge where she got a Blue in cricket! Teaching was a vocation. She was passionate about it and thought mathematics was the most exciting subject to teach. If you passed her classroom, there was Jill, arms waving wildly, all the children’s hands up – because she would never tell them how to do it! They had to work it out together! After teaching in Croydon, she decided to join her sister and family who had moved to Kenya. Jill spent four years teaching in El Doret in the Kenyan foothills, climbing Mt Kilimanjaro to spend some surplus energy! Then it was back to Central London and promotion to greater responsibilities leading to headship at the young age of 38 at Brighton and Hove High School.

Jill was a natural leader - a passionate educationalist who minded about giving young people the best teaching, the best resources and the best experiences she could muster. She took everyone on this journey of enthusiasm with her. During her 8 years at Brighton, she came across a Primary School for sale at Boughrood, near Brecon and after persuading the Governors to buy it, she converted it into a Field Centre. So, generations of pupils at Brighton have experienced a quite different environment in the mountains of Wales.

After eight years as Head of Brighton the opportunity arose to move to Wales as Head of Howell’s School, Llandaff. As she had to live in during the week because we had boarders, it gave her a chance to buy a cottage in the National Park for weekends, get a dog and engage in the outdoor pursuits she loved. And at school she started to innovate everything she touched – a new science building, a new kitchen and dining rooms, setting up a Junior School, creating a Music School, refurbishing the boarding houses, creating a Design and Technology suite – and more besides. But much more importantly she worked on innovating the teaching of every subject, as the new examinations in the 1980s demanded a different kind of methodology. She had a real empathy with anyone in difficulty: many found the help and guidance they needed in her office. But when it was necessary, she would battle to provide the best possible quality of education. Jill had a personal, moral integrity which never sought popularity, but gained immense respect. And she still had time and energy to carry out her own interests – to learn Welsh, to sing



in the Llandaff Cathedral Choral Society, and to help organise the Llandaff Festival. By half-term many of us wanted a rest, but Jill would be cross-country skiing in the Vosges, or bagging a Munro or walking the Pennine Way to recharge the batteries!

Jill had so many gifts that she didn’t want to be defined by one area of life. She didn’t want to retire at 60 because she felt she had the energy to do much more, but she also wanted to take up previous interests again and embrace new ones. She moved to her cottage in Cray permanently and firstly trained as an inspector of mathematics teaching. By then I had moved into inspection, and we often worked together on the inspection of a school. As John Grooms’ great-granddaughter, with a strong social conscience, she became an ambassador for the charity, raising money by organising concerts and other fundraising events. Faith was at the heart of her life, and she now had the time to serve more fully in the church. Though she was a life-long member of the Anglican communion, she bridged the gap easily with non-conformity and trained to become an accredited lay preacher in the Presbyterian Church of Wales. Jill became a Warden of the National Park; with her love of music and particularly choral singing, she joined the Brecon Cathedral Choral Singers. Before long friends from Brighton, who had moved to Newtown, persuaded her to move to mid Wales, and she settled latterly in Guilsfield, making many new friends in the three choirs to which she belonged. The music for her funeral Service was magnificent and we all gave thanks for a life well lived, a life in which she touched the lives of so many and made a real difference.”

**Glynis Owen, former Deputy Head**



“My first sight of Miss Turner (as all the staff called her during her Headship) was on a Tuesday in May 1978, when the then Head of the History Department, Dorothy Bowen, ushered me into Jill’s room for my job interview, saying outside the door, “She’s got a lovely smile”. And she had, as well as a twinkle in her eye. I will always be grateful to her for appointing me as it is extremely unlikely otherwise that I would have come to Wales, which has been my home ever since. I had arrived back in England from Australia only the previous Thursday, so I was very lucky indeed.

Having previously taught in a well-equipped grammar school turned comprehensive, I found Howell’s very different at first. Miss Turner certainly had a challenge on her hands to bring the school into the late twentieth century as it was caught in a time-warp, and during her thirteen years as Headmistress she did just that: she transformed it into a forward-thinking and well-equipped school with a range of extracurricular opportunities and greatly improved facilities, as well as creating a more homely atmosphere for boarders. The school retained its excellent academic and discipline standards, but almost immediately Miss Turner relaxed some of the more extreme rules, such as boarders being allowed to wash their hair only once a week (or was it once a fortnight?) unless the doctor gave them permission to wash it more often.

In 1978, all the girls played games every lunchtime (an army of part-time games teachers arrived for an hour or so every day to make this possible), apart from those in the Sixth Form who, I believe, “only” had to play about three times a week. This meant that other lunchtime activities were virtually non-existent. Miss Turner soon set about introducing lunchtime clubs and bringing PE and games into the timetable. Another early measure was to create a sitting room for staff; when I arrived the only staff area was the Study, with desks that had been there since 1906, and two easy chairs by the fireplace. Any staff not wanting to sit and eat with the girls at lunchtime at the head of the long tables in the dining rooms either had to go home (which they were able to do, since all the girls were occupied playing games) or eat their packed lunch in the staff cloakroom at the end of the Covered Way.

Miss Turner completed the process, begun by Miss Lewis, of Howell’s becoming a member of the GPDST (later the GDST) and this undoubtedly brought numerous benefits. New facilities introduced included several laboratories, the so-called “New Building” (housing rooms for modern languages and mathematics), a Technology Centre, a Sixth Form suite, a greatly-extended and modernised library, a self-service cafeteria, a new Music Suite – notably the Octagon and a wing of individual instrumental rooms – in the Cumberland Lodge area, and a new Junior School in Hazelwood. What a legacy!



While our relationship remained formal, Miss Turner and I shared interests in music, languages and the outdoors, and this meant that we found ourselves in the same choir and Welsh class for a while! Miss Turner provided the contact for me to arrange outdoor activity weekends at the Boughrood Field Centre, which belonged to her previous school, Brighton and Hove High School, and supported me in organising other outdoor pursuits. At weekends she would escape from the school to her cottage at Cray, near Brecon, with her Labrador, Meg, whose misdemeanours I will pass over in silence. As a parting gift to the school, she provided money for several years for what were known as the Jill Turner concerts, providing pupils with the opportunity to work with professional musicians.

Miss Turner was not a great one for small talk, but I always found her, on a personal level, very kind, fair and supportive. She was honourable and principled, and there were no airs and graces. She worked indefatigably in the interests of the school, and I was sad to hear of her passing.”

**Janet Sully, Former Colleague**





“I remember feeling intimidated by Miss Turner on my first day in the Upper Third at Howell’s. She had an enormous presence, a commanding manner and was only slightly less terrifying than Mrs Lloyd. On one memorable occasion, rushing along the Head’s Corridor to a lesson, I passed Miss Turner and forgot to say, “good morning”. An unfortunate choice, met with a response I shall never forget, ‘I happen to know who you are, and you certainly know who I am. I therefore expect you to wish me a “good morning”’. The point, well made, has never been forgotten!

Throughout the years between the Upper Third and the Upper Sixth, Miss Turner cut a familiar figure striding through the grounds, head scarfed, hands deep in pockets and accompanied by her beloved Labrador, Meg. Though she never taught me, I had many opportunities to talk to her. For no reason I can fathom, my position in the Stone Hall lunch queue frequently meant I ended up sitting next to Miss Turner on the middle table of BDR. She always put me at ease, and I remember enjoying our conversations. Amongst many other things, I recall discussions about the best walks in Pembrokeshire, the ambitions of Live Aid, the optimum way of cooking rice and a somewhat trickier conversation about the nature of the Holy Trinity. On all of these occasions she was invariably stimulating company with her keen sense of humour, often self-deprecating, never far from the surface.”

**Cordelia Jervis (née Green), Secretary of the Hywelian Guild and Class of 1985**

“My anecdote about Miss Turner is not first-hand but others might verify. The first weekend in January 1978 that Miss Turner was headmistress, she wanted to take the senior boarders for a hike, so she told them to get ready. When she returned, she looked them up and down and said, “why are you not wearing jeans, girls?”. No one had any jeans as they were not allowed at school in those days. This was one of the first revisions Miss Turner made to the uniform rules, followed by allowing grey knee socks instead of tights and then revising the Sixth Form uniform when I was in the UVI.”

**Deborah Ward (née Buss), Class of 1980**



“I was at Howell’s for sixth form from 79-81 and, as such, was one of the first to benefit from the new sixth form centre and lack of uniform Miss Turner instigated. It all felt so grown up - being able to make our own coffee and have study areas away from the rest of the school to use in our free periods.

I think Miss Turner liked to encourage independent thinking. I hated games, so instead wanted to run a drama group for the juniors at lunchtime and had to go to Miss Turner with a coherent plan. I was very surprised when she approved it, and she was a great supporter throughout the project. She also allowed me to drop an option so I could spend an afternoon a week volunteering at the local radio station because I wanted to make media my career. I have a great deal to thank her for.”

**Jane Cable (née Simpson)**

“I recall Miss Turner interviewing me when I was 11 years old in the museum room, which contained a grand wooden table. I was very nervous, but she obviously saw something in me and I was welcomed into the school!”

**Kate Strong**

“Jill Turner appointed me in 1982 as a teacher of mathematics. I well remember the chat we had sitting by her fireside, not realising that this was my interview!



“Not long after I took up my appointment, I mentioned to Jill it was a pity that there were no computers in school. I told her I could teach the subject and being the forward-thinking person she was, a single Research Machine 380Z duly arrived! More machines were promptly purchased, and I was put in charge. I was soon teaching a computer literacy qualification called CLAIT as an extra- curricular subject to interested members of the Sixth Form. Thereafter it became a burgeoning subject thanks to her foresight and trust in my ability!

My main love was mathematics and as fellow mathematicians, Jill and I got on very well. Many people found her quite formidable, but I never found her so. She was always very supportive of my style of teaching. After a more formal interview in 1985, I was delighted to be appointed by Jill as Head of Mathematics.

I will always be grateful for my initial appointment which together with Jill’s support and encouragement which led to 33 very happy years in Howell’s School.”

**Denise Cook**

“Miss Turner became Head in 1977, when I was in L1VS, appointed after Miss Lewis left Howell’s. Having spent my first year at Howell’s under the headship of ‘The Louse’ (as we called her), Miss Turner was very different! She was young (or so we thought compared to Miss Lewis), friendly (ish) and had a dog! I had been terrified of Miss Lewis so this was a change for the better. Anyhow (as Miss Lewis used to say), jump forward to Upper 6th and I was honoured and surprised to be made Head of Boarders! I was bursting with both pride and wonder until it dawned on me that this position was expected to give a vote of thanks at the Summer Term speech day. This was something that I would never be able to do; the thought of it terrified me as I was very shy and self-conscious. I wasn’t bad at sport which



gave me an enormous boost at school, but not much else. The thought of public speaking brought on cold sweats and palpitations. Even in scripture lessons with Mrs Simpkins, when we had to go around the classroom reading consecutive verses from The Bible, I would race ahead, work out which verse would be mine in due course and PRACTISE like mad before it was my turn. Mrs Simpkins’s nick name for me was Shrinking Violet! Proof!

At the end of the Easter Term in Upper VI, I summoned up the courage to go to Miss Turner to request I was excused the torture (for me and her) of giving the vote of thanks at Speech Day. She invited me in (once the door light changed from WAIT to COME IN), sat me down and offered me a drink (not alcohol of course). I made my request. She pondered, then slowly asked me why I wouldn’t be able to give the short speech? Shaking, I listed the many reasons why I shouldn’t do it, whilst she nodded and listened intently. She looked at the floor for what seemed like ten minutes then slowly raised her head, smiling. Great, I assumed I was off the hook, phew.

Miss Turner then told me that for precisely all the reasons I gave, she was determined I should give the vote of thanks. I couldn’t believe it. I was very polite and nodded in submission because I was too terrified to disagree.

I will never forget that experience. I went ahead and gave the vote of thanks; I can’t remember whether it was good or bad - it was terrifying. Once over, it didn’t matter - I’d done it! Me! Did something I ‘knew I never could’. I remember the pride, relief and feeling of success and it will live with me forever. It taught me such a good lesson in life which I have drawn on many times since. I wish I had thanked her.”

**Katherine Spencer (née Phillips)**

We were also delighted to receive Helen Griffiths’ (née Richards) Headmistress’s Report for 1979-80 from Miss Turner. Many thanks for sharing it with us, Helen, it really is a fascinating read!





# Hywelian Highlights 2023



## Hywelian author Christie and Rebecca the Woodpecker visit the Prep School

Thank you to Hywelian Christie Bounsall who visited our Nursery and Reception girls in 2023. Christie is a children's book author and illustrator and she visited to give a special reading of her latest work. Our students loved listening to her story, *Rebecca the Woodpecker*. You can purchase her brilliant children's book by clicking here: [Rebecca The Woodpecker - Troubadour Book Publishing](#)



## 25 Hywelians performed in Howell's Spring Concert 2023

On the evening of Thursday 23rd March 2023 a full audience of families, students, governors, friends and alumni gathered in the Sports Hall for the annual Spring Concert.

The first half of the concert featured the very best of our Senior School ensembles, who performed music by composers from Mozart to Menken. The second half consisted of a very moving performance of Fauré's beautiful Requiem. Howell's has always been defined by its sense of family, making it a very special place to study and work, and music has always been a valued asset, bringing together different ages, abilities, peer groups, staff and students. The concert perfectly embodied this sense of community as staff, students, past and present, performed side-by-side. Year 7 tackled Latin pronunciation and mastered the soprano line in their weekly music assemblies. The Senior Choir, featuring the most experienced Year 10-13 singers, performed alongside College Choir, which is an 'unauditioned' 'wellbeing' choir for Years 12-13 and staff. It was particularly special that twenty-five Hywelians performed in the choir and orchestra, some of whom hadn't visited Howell's in decades.

It was a wonderful evening, and we are extremely proud of the standard and ethos achieved by our musicians at this very special concert. Many thanks to Ms Edwards, the entire music department and everyone involved who made the evening such a triumph.



## Hywelian Author, Angela, returns to Howell's for World Book Day

In celebration of World Book Day 2023, we were delighted to welcome alumna and children's author Angela Fish to Howell's. Angela spoke to the girls in Nursery and Reception about her books and writing, and read them excerpts from her children's books. She also generously gave everyone signed copies of her picture book, *The Captain's Favourite Treasure*, and left some games for everyone to play. The girls had a lovely time and asked Angela lots of questions. We are so grateful to Angela for joining us and making World Book Day so special for the youngest members of our community. For more information about Angela and her books visit: [Angela Fish – Writer \(angela-fish.com\)](#)



## A very busy Saturday 1st July for Hywelians

Saturday 1st July 2023 was a very busy day at Howell's as we welcomed over 80 Hywelians back to school for a day of reunions.

It was a pleasure to welcome over 50 Hywelians back to Howell's for the annual Summer Lunch and AGM in the Great Hall. Our doors were open from 11am for guests to revisit old haunts before the AGM took place at 12.30 pm. A delicious lunch followed and Hywelians were delighted to hear from Sally Davis about life at Howell's today and plans for the future. During the afternoon we marked two birthdays: Hywelian Barbara Forte celebrated turning 95 on 2nd July, sharing a birthday with our own Principal, Sally Davis. Happy birthday Barbara and Sally!

Later that evening, our Sports Pavilion was transformed into a lovely cocktail lounge when we were joined by the Class of 2013, along with some of their former teachers, to celebrate 10 years since leaving Howell's. Everyone enjoyed the cocktails, mocktails and a tasty selection of canapés. It was fabulous to find out what they have been doing since leaving Howell's.

It was a very special day filled with fun, reminiscing and lots of laughter and we look forward to seeing everyone again soon. Many thanks to everyone who made the day so successful.



## Hywelian returns to Howell's

Tuesday 11th July was a very special day in Howell's when we welcomed alumna, Mary Smith, back to visit. Mary was accompanied by her carer Sian from the Ty Coch Care home in Llanishen. Mary won a scholarship to attend Howell's where she was educated between the ages of 11 and 18 and left 1960. She then returned to Howell's when she was 25 and taught French for two years. During their visit, Mary and Sian enjoyed a tour of the school before having tea and Welsh cakes with Mrs Davis and Mrs Chyba. It was wonderful to welcome Mary back, hear stories and see wonderful photographs of her time in school. We hope to welcome you back to Howell's soon, Mary and Sian!



# Who? What? Where?

We love receiving news from Hywelians from all over the world so hope you enjoy reading the terrific tales from this year.



## Carole Golten made women's captain at Finchley Golf Club

"I was made women's captain at Finchley Golf Club, London in April 2023. It was a great honour to be made Captain, although it's like a full-time job! I organise all the competitions, social events and away trips. I love playing golf too - it's great therapy and very social. I couldn't recommend it enough."

## Sophie Evans begins training with Cardiff Law Firm, Capital Law

"I left Howell's in 2019. After graduating from the University of Reading with a First Class Honours in LLB Law in 2022, this year I went onto achieve a Commendation in my LPC MSc in Law, Business & Management from the University of Law. I have just begun my training contract in Cardiff, as a Trainee Solicitor at Capital Law.

I just remember Mrs George being a fabulous teacher, always looking out for us and pushing us to be our best. Good luck to her in her retirement."



## Charlotte Leeke: Simply You

"Since leaving Howell's, I have done many things. I initially lived and worked in London as freelance professional French horn player and instrumental teacher for music services for fifteen years. I moved back to Wales in 2013 and my current job is as Head of Music at Archbishop McGrath Catholic High School in Bridgend. I trained as an image consultant and personal stylist with Colour Me Beautiful in January 2014 and now also work part time running my own business, Simply You ([www.SimplyYou.org.uk](http://www.SimplyYou.org.uk)). I welcome clients from all over South Wales and further afield and do their colour, style, make-up and full image consultations as well as personal shopping trips, wardrobe edits and parties for small groups. I am also in demand doing talks for WIs throughout South Wales about Colour Me Beautiful and my business, Simply You. I have had my own business for ten years now and I'm still loving it. As well as all of this, I play with Rhondda Symphony Orchestra and Cambrensis."



## It all starts for Barbara Forte on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 1939

"This is the day I entered Howell's School Llandaff (gas mask in its cardboard box-like the hundred or more others - at the ready), a month after the outbreak of the second world war, and I'm still here to tell the tale! In those early days I was Barbara Mealing, later to become Barbara Lloyd Hughes (yes, I married a Hywelian's brother like many of my contemporaries). I remained at Howell's through to matriculation under enlightened leadership of Miss Lewis at that time. I served for many years on the Committee with her and it was through her "persuasion" that I was accepted and was one of the few oldies enrolled in university! I was 29, with 3 small boys under nine!

I really enjoyed my three years with the 'so much younger' students, even when the Principal, giving a lecture to the new incomers, said that "students of the opposite sex could be entertained in your room on Wednesday afternoons. I was busy writing his every word down. IS IT COMPULSORY, SIR?"

The years went by, and I was always involved with Howell's, on the Committee, visiting London and the Drapers' Hall. I taught in all sorts of schools in Cardiff and the Vale, I remarried too and became Mrs Forte, one more than thirty-nine!

And it all started on that Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 1939."

Barbara has also shared a document relating to the first Hywelian November Nosh-Up which we hope you enjoy reading:



Click or scan here



## Kate Strong's Climate Cycle

"I graduated with a double Master's degree in mechanical engineering, which I completed in a French and English university. I emigrated to Australia, where I opened and operated a guesthouse, restaurant, event space and wine bar.

In 2012, I took up triathlon and became age-group World Champion in long-distance triathlon. I went on to compete for Australia in five more World Championships before getting injured.

Still wanting to compete in sport, in 2021 I broke three world records in static cycling: furthest distance on a static bike in one, 12 & 24 hours. I cycled 433.09 miles in that period. The motivation for this record is that a male record existed for the 24-hours, but no female record. This has now been rectified.

Moving away from competition, I recently completed Climate Cycle, a 3,300-mile bike ride around mainland Britain (England, Scotland and Wales) on a hand-made bamboo bike. During these three months, I visited over 30 sustainability projects, communities and initiatives.

I am now focusing on my role as a co-founder of a green-tech company (linking personal health and wellbeing with planetary health), writing a book on my mindset and purpose coaching and mentoring.

I'm nomadic, which means I don't have a fixed address, and I'm about to buy a car so that I can travel more freely and quickly) than I can on my bike!"





## Helen Westwood (née Helen K Jones)

"After leaving Howell's in 1984 I worked in several different careers from teaching and insurance to recruitment sales but never really felt like I had found my niche. It wasn't until I moved to Scotland that I discovered I had a passion for writing. Who would have thought that those English grammar lessons with Mrs Hamilton Jones would have come in so useful?"

My life completely changed course for the better when I reconnected with David, my childhood sweetheart, and in 2013 I quit my job, sold my flat in Cheltenham and relocated to Scotland to get married. Sadly, my husband fell ill with cancer and I spent the next few years caring for him throughout his treatment. I used my skills in the kitchen to make sure he had the very best home cooking and nutrition to help him recover and I started sharing my recipes on a blog. When David felt well enough to travel in between his treatments, we explored the Scottish Highlands and Islands together, which opened up a whole new world to me. I fell in love with wildlife and bird watching, nature photography and just enjoying the Scottish outdoors.

Together we explored over 30 Scottish Islands including Shetland, Orkney, The Outer Hebrides, Islay, Fair Isle, Staffa and St Kilda which involved a grueling catamaran ride of over three hours into the Atlantic. The St Kilda Archipelago is



owned today by the Scottish National Trust and is home to some of the largest colonies of sea birds in the UK. We sailed around the dramatic sea stacks, so tall that the peaks disappeared into the clouds. I think I threw up for the entire sail but visiting this remote part of Scotland was an incredible and unforgettable experience.

I've watched and photographed puffins, gannets, kittiwakes, oystercatchers, fulmars, seals, red squirrels, sea eagles, dolphins, basking sharks and otters during my travels. I've watched gannets nesting on cliff ledges on Noss from a boat and puffins building nests on Shetland. I've hiked to the Hermaness Nature Reserve, the most



Northerly tip of the British Isles and watched Bonxies, large fearsome birds who own the sky. We've even watched storm petrels at night using night vision head torches at the ancient 300BC broch on Mousa. This was an unforgettable experience as these tiny birds flew past our heads in the darkness at speed like bats then disappeared into the stone walls to reunite with their mates. We've also sailed to Staffa and explored Fingal's Cave, which has dramatic hexagonal columns of basalt and incredible acoustics, inspiring Mendelssohn to write "The Hebrides" overture.



On another exciting adventure, a friend of ours who owns a float plane took us on an island-hopping trip. We completed splash landings on several lochs including Loch Lomond, much to the amusement of the local tourists. I was temporarily allowed to take the controls of the plane (under the captain's supervision) while flying over the mountains near the Cobbler, an exhilarating and nerve-racking experience! We also flew over the Corryvreckan, a famous large sea whirlpool between Jura and Scarba, before flying over some of the more remote landscapes on Jura, where deer outnumber people.



During a chance meeting with another writer in Glasgow one day, I got chatting about my Scottish adventures and passion for cooking. I was subsequently invited to write food and travel articles for the iScot Magazine. The editor loved my first article which I nervously submitted but I have since had over 30 articles published! My love of cooking, local Scottish food producers and exploring some of the most beautiful natural landscapes in Scotland gave me plenty of material to write about.

Then the Pandemic hit and due to my husband's health issues we were locked down for three months. However, every situation has a silver lining and my editor suggested I write a book while I was stuck at home. Two years later my first ever cookbook was successfully published on Amazon, *Cook Like a Celt*. I had to teach myself food styling and photography from scratch, including how to use a digital camera on manual and set up my own lighting. I turned my conservatory into a photographic studio,



and it became littered with professional backdrops, lights and props for months on end while I perfected my photos until I was 100% happy. I think my Howell's Art lessons came in handy because I discovered that I had a natural eye for composition. My poor husband often had to eat the same recipe over again while I perfected the ingredients and photographs. He never once complained though as he loves my cooking. My neighbours were also very willing recipe testers, and I would often leave tubs of baking on their doorsteps for them to try.

I wanted my book to be more than a basic collection of recipes inspired by the seven Celtic nations, so I included some fascinating stories about our travels around the Scottish Highlands and Islands to show where I got my inspiration. I have always enjoyed using local produce to create my recipes, whether it is fresh crab from Barra, whisky from Islay, scallops from Grimsay, or lamb from Shetland. I've even foraged for edible seaweed and cooked a risotto on a beach in front of Bowmore Distillery.



I also included some nostalgic family recipes which I enjoyed while I was growing up in Wales, such as Welsh cakes, bara brith and lamb stew. I still own and use an original antique Welsh bakestone made by my grandad in the steelworks where he worked over 60 years ago and would never cook my Welsh cakes on anything else. If you fancy reading more about my adventures and would like to try my recipes, check out my book on Amazon in print and Kindle format, available in most countries worldwide:

[https://www.amazon.co.uk/gp/aw/d/1838250042/?ref=tmm\\_pap\\_swatch\\_0?ie=UTF8&qid=&sr=](https://www.amazon.co.uk/gp/aw/d/1838250042/?ref=tmm_pap_swatch_0?ie=UTF8&qid=&sr=)

I can honestly say that the last few years have been a bit of a roller coaster while I was creating recipes from the heart, writing and getting my book published. However, I've gained so many new skills and knowledge about photography, publishing, marketing and working as a digital creator. So my message to everyone is: never give up on your dreams and believe in yourself as we do not know what we are capable of until we try. We all have something to offer the world, the challenge of life is to work out what that something is and then use it. Researching the material for this book has shown me that food connects us all as human beings and what can be more rewarding than cooking a meal for the people you love?"





## Sarah Matthews (née Watson James) won a cycling World Championship

"I was a pupil at Howell's from 1971 to 1978.

In 2015 I took up cycling time trials which, if you've ever watched the Tour de France, is the race in which cyclists set off individually to race a course against the clock. For someone that started HSL in September 1971 you can be forgiven for thinking I'm a late starter, but having discovered I really enjoyed it and was quite good for my age I set about being the best I could be.

In August this year the international cycling body, the UCI, was staging the World Championships in Glasgow and, for the first time ever, this elite cycling event incorporated the paracycling and amateur events. My goal for 2023 was to qualify to race in the amateur individual time trial and get on the podium (I was 3rd in my age group in 2017). Amateurs compete in categories spanning five years and I was racing in the women's 60-64 category.

Training and planning started in November 2022, but not everything went to plan. I fell off on hydraulic fluid in February in my first race of the season. My bike came off worse than I did and, as carbon bike repair is a highly specialised skill, I was without my race bike for three months. Changing my plans and staying focused on my goal resulted in me winning both qualifiers I'd entered (in Cyprus in March in Peterborough in June). I'd planned specific races as part of my training but the July weather in the UK saw yet more changes to my plans. It's a good thing I like planning!

The big day, Monday 7th August, started bright, sunny and slightly breezy. The time trial was on a road just east of Dundee and in the World Championships we get to race on closed roads whereas the bulk of time trialling is done on open roads. I felt at the top of my game. Not something I've experienced that often.



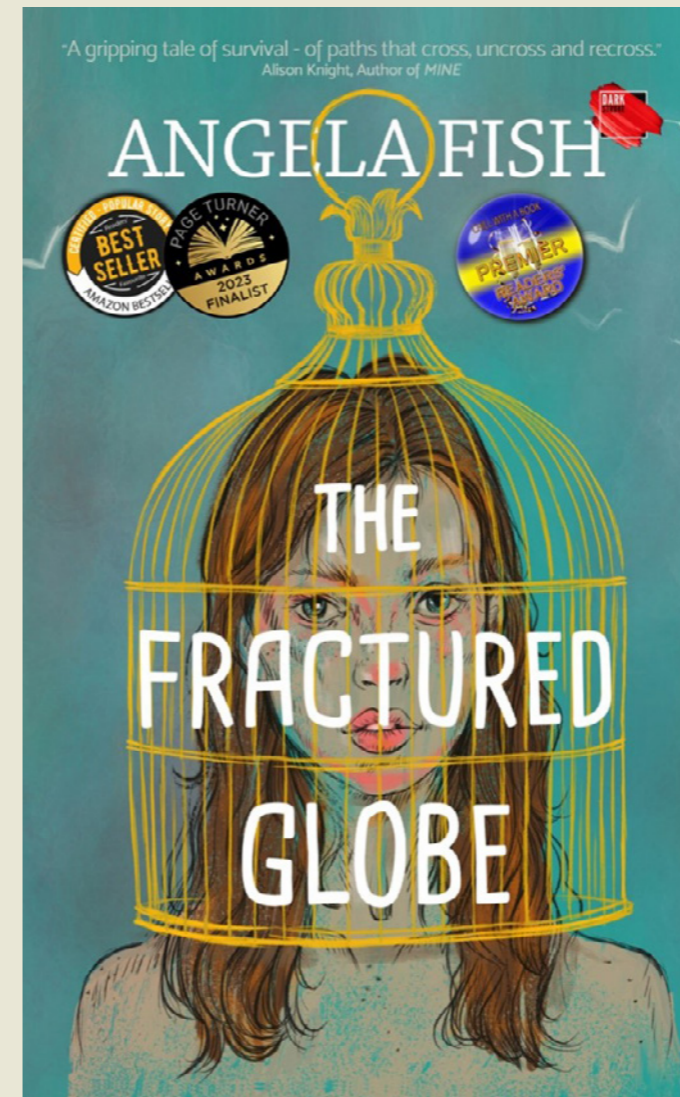
The race itself was an amazing experience as you must go into the start ten minutes before you start, to check your bike adheres to the complicated UCI measurement rules ... and that you haven't got a motor secreted in the frame! The setup is just as you see at the professional races. You then go onto the start platform, your name, country, and in my case 'twice qualified in Cyprus and Peterborough' got a mention. They then count you down and you roll down the ramp for 14.2 miles of riding as hard as you can. There were plenty of spectators lining both sides of the course for the first half a mile, then at various points on the course. When you're breathing as hard as your lungs allow and your legs are aching with the effort, hearing someone shouting your name or 'come on GB' really helps.

When I crossed the finish line 34 minutes and 49 seconds later, I knew I couldn't have gone faster or harder so whether I got a podium or 10th place it was what I deserved. I was absolutely stunned and thrilled when a friend showed me the live results and congratulated me on my win.

A couple of hours later I was on the podium in the formal medal presentation. The UCI did the presentation in French and English - which extends the time you are standing on the top podium fighting back the tears. I was presented with a winner's jersey and gold medal, a Tissot watch - the same as the elite riders won, and a 'Coo' the Highland cow mascot for the event. Finally, they played God Save the King whilst I stood on the top podium with tears of joy and emotion running down my cheeks.

A truly amazing experience and a better than hoped for result."

## Hywelians in Print



"Another busy year in my writing world. Covid's legacy is still impacting on live events such as book fairs and school visits but, hopefully, next year will see 'normal service' resumed. It was lovely to visit the girls in Howell's Nursery and Reception on World Book Day this year. I've learned to expect unusual questions, such as 'Why are you wearing a sparkly necklace?! Molly and the Magic Mirror has finally been completed and is now seeking a publisher. It began life with the assistance of Howell's girls in Years 5 and 6 at the time, they are probably in Years 9 and 10 now! It's aimed at 8-11-year-olds and I'm keeping my fingers crossed that I'll have an actual book in my hands before too long.

The Fractured Globe, my debut novel published in December 2020, has been doing very well. The Kindle version is now an international best-seller, reaching number one in several categories, including Psychological Literary Fiction, and Parenting, Morals and Responsibility. It was entered for several competitions

and awards this year and won the Chill With A Book, Premiere Readers' Award and was a finalist in the Page Turner Book Award.

I have also been experimenting with Flash Fiction and entered several American-run competitions. The aim is to write a complete story in a set number of words, for example, one hundred, five hundred, or a thousand. Entrants are grouped and then allocated a genre, a location and either a specific word or an action. To add to the challenge, entries must be completed in either twenty-four, or forty-eight hours! With the three I've entered so far, I've reached second round (of three) which has motivated me to try some more. In The King Lear Prize competition, in a field of three thousand entries, two of my poems were placed in the highly commended category.

I'm currently working on a second novel, again with an underlying psychological basis of 'seeing is believing'. It has a split setting, between Brighton and Swansea, and the characters meet and work in the world of antiques. Slow going at present but it will be done!"

### Angela Fish (née Kear)

"In 2023, my 8th and 9th novels have been published; The Collaborator's Daughter, a romance with mature characters written as Eva Glyn for Harper Collins, and The Lost Heir, a romantic mystery dual timeline going back to Regency Cornwall under my own name for Sapere Books. I look forward to book ten hitting the shelves in March 2024."

### Jane Cable (née Simpson)

Maria McCarthy (1974-1981) is still working as a journalist and author and living in Sidmouth, Devon. She's just indie-published her latest book, Driving Test Secrets You Need to Know, and found the self-publishing process fascinating. Maria writes for the Sidmouth Herald, specialising in Behind the Scenes features - she's covered behind the scenes with church bellringers, Seaton Tramways, the flower arrangement club, sailing club and ukulele band. She's also part of an excellent and supportive women writers' group on Facebook established by fellow Hywelian Jane Cable (née Simpson). In her spare time Maria enjoys socialising, cooking, swimming in the sea and walking in the beautiful Devon countryside. She also does some gardening and recently won first prize for her potatoes at Sid Vale Horticultural show. For more information, visit: [Home / Maria McCarthy](#)



### Maria McCarthy



# In Memoriam



## Rosalie Hill (née Axford)

"I am sorry to let you know that an 'old' Hywelian has passed away. Rosalie Hill née Axford attended Howell's School during the war years as a day girl. She had many happy memories while at the school. She was a member of the southern branch of the Hywelian Guild which unfortunately disbanded a few years ago due to the passing of older members. I did attend some of these meetings as Rosalie's mobility decreased. I also attended other events at the school and Llandaff Cathedral over the years and realised what a happy and friendly group of people you all are and how mum loved her 'meetings' around the south."

## Mrs Helen Hurst, daughter

## Doreen Margaret Sophia Benham (née Rees)

Mrs Benham's daughter, Felicity Robinson, has sent in the eulogy she wrote for her mother, Doreen Margaret's funeral service on 17th January 2022.

"Margaret was born in Lon Isa, Rhiwbina on 26th June 1930. Her father, a Cardiff man, met her Suffolk-born Mother when a division of WW1 soldiers was stationed in the vicinity of Wickham Market. (Quite a few young ladies from Wickham Market and the surroundings could tell a similar story.)

Her first home was rented, then her parents bought a nearby property, so they moved next door! Later the family moved to a more spacious house on Rhiwbina Hill.

Six and a half years later her younger sister Elizabeth was born, known to the family as Betty. As young adults they went around together, including one foreign holiday to Switzerland. To begin with Margaret 'looked after' Betty, but quickly they developed a strong and abiding bond.

Margaret's maternal grandfather, great aunt and Auntie Flo all lived in Wickham Market, so many happy holidays were passed in Suffolk. The family was lucky enough to own a car, so they drove from Cardiff, until petrol rationing during WW2 meant the motor had to be mothballed.

Both girls went to Howell's School Llandaff. Margaret loathed all sports, most of which were done at lunchtime, so she cycled home for lunch every day to avoid participating. She made two lifelong friends, Mary and Joyce.

Margaret appears to have been 'making' - embroidering and knitting - from an early age and chose to train as a Needlework teacher. The course included Domestic Science which she claimed to hate from day one. (She didn't like having messy hands.) Her parents were rather old-fashioned and reluctant to allow her to leave home, so she attended teacher training college in Cardiff.

Once qualified, she wanted to teach locally but apparently it was frowned upon to start one's career too close to where one had been a student. She looked over the border and took up posts in secondary schools in Bristol, Gloucester and Whitney.

By the mid-1950s, Margaret's contemporaries and younger sister were all learning to drive; she was more diffident, and felt left out, so bought a Morris Minor without a clear plan for passing her test. Through the Wickham Market grapevine, an adolescent friend and admirer heard of her dilemma: he was living and working in Coventry and offered his services as her driving instructor. Every Friday, he would head west, they would rendezvous, and Margaret would tentatively pilot the car to Cardiff and back again on Sunday.

Margaret and Haydn married in 1960 (as did her sister Betty). Their first home was a bungalow in Bulkington; after child number two arrived, they moved to a three bedroomed house in Nuneaton, and soon afterwards there were three children. Looking back, Margaret regarded these years as happy and settled. She was busy with the practicalities of home making, most of the neighbours were 'stay at home mums' and her sister was nearby in first Four Oaks, then Aldridge.

In 1970 Haydn took up a new and more responsible job as Hospital Engineer at The Norfolk and Norwich Hospital, so the family relocated to Wymondham, a modest size market town in Norfolk. Rural life and the cold easterly winds came as a shock to Margaret: in hindsight she was a suburban lady who liked a range of department stores and window shopping more than bracing country walks. She never learned to love the open vistas and continually craved rolling hills or towering mountains on the horizon and the blue seas and sandy coves of South Wales.

Although she felt lonely and out of place, she embarked on making all the curtains and many of the soft furnishings for the new abode. At the same time, she made most of her own and her children's clothes. She was a prodigious knitter of all woollens for the family and her needles clicked rhythmically during long car journeys and on the beach.

Despite not enjoying cooking, she refused to countenance any convenience foods, or school meals, preferring her children to walk home from school for lunch, she did a weekly bake and each autumn made sufficient jam for the year ahead.

She said openly that she never settled down in Norfolk and was happy to leave. On Haydn's retirement they embarked on building a new bungalow in Wickham Market, Haydn's childhood home. Margaret, too, had strong links, having visited the village throughout her life. Its only downside was that her sister Betty was a long way away, still in the Midlands.

Haydn was very involved in building and fitting out of No 2 Featherbroom Gardens and Margaret was equally busy with the interior. Once again she turned her hand to making all the curtains, bedspreads and eiderdowns and together they recovered the dining room chairs.

For the first time in their married life Margaret accompanied Haydn to church regularly. They made some close friends, both within the church family and in the wider community. Surprisingly, she joined all sorts of groups: church "Ladies' Fellowships", History Society and Quilters Club are but a few. During those ten years they had two lovely cruises and a foreign holiday to Sweden, where Timothy was living and working.

Haydn died in November 2000. Margaret continued to attend church and kept up all her other activities, probably added a few extras like Elderberry Club and the Elliot's House Group. She abandoned dressmaking but continued with other textile-related hobbies and always cooked herself sensible meals.

When Timothy and Anna bought a house, she flew to Sweden for Christmas, year after year, returning with them for New Year. At least twice a year she would

spend two or three weeks staying with Betty and these eagerly anticipated holidays continued until her sister died.

Margaret has complained about joint and lower back pain for the last forty years. A hip replacement failed to cure her various discomforts, but with her trusty rollator and help from good friends she carried on with most of her activities, including doing her own shopping until four or five years ago. Since then, she had some extended stays in hospital and has been much more reliant upon family, friends and latterly carers. Throughout, she has been happy to remain living in her own home and despite not being a demonstrative person, she announced (rather unusually) that she'd enjoyed Christmas Day and Boxing Day of 2021."

Felicity added:



"My mother had requested that her funeral service should take place in Wickham Market Parish Church, but the Covid-19 variant Omicron was still circulating. Consequently, we erred on the side of caution and instead chose to hold the service at Seven Hills Crematorium, Ipswich, where the vicar of Wickham Market All Saints, the Revd Leslie Sui, officiated. It was attended by close family and a small band of friends, who had supported her during the final year or two, but the service was live-streamed and watched by wider family and many friends and acquaintances. Her elder son Christopher, an accomplished organist, played for the service, including J S Bach's Toccata and Fugue in D minor, which she had requested. Her ashes will join her late husband's in Wickham Market Cemetery's Garden of Remembrance."

## Felicity Robinson, daughter



## Lisa Lermon

"Lisa died on 21st April 2022 aged 44, after nearly 9 years of surgery and cancer treatment. During this time, she showed extreme determination to understand and research her condition.

Lisa attended Howell's School from the age of eight, where she particularly enjoyed all the music opportunities, and then Clifton where she made lasting friendships. At the end of her time at York, she obtained first class in Music (this included a few happy terms in Finland). She then obtained an M.Phil in ethnomusicology from Trinity Hall, Cambridge.



For this, she spent time in Nepal recording the working songs of Tibetan refugees. She worked in a refugee assessment centre near Cambridge, taking testimonies from asylum seekers, after which she had a few pleasurable years at BBC Radio 3 and completed a British Museum diploma on Asian Art. She then trained and qualified as a solicitor with Morgan Cole in Cardiff and Oxford, after which she worked in the legal department of Oxfordshire County Council, from which in 2013 she took retirement because of ill health.

She is survived by her parents, her twin sister Sophie, her elder sister Anna, and their families."

**Anna Lermon, sister**

**Helen Wilson (née Beeson)**

"Helen died on July 1st, 2023, after a sudden, short illness.

She lived a very full and active life, with her early years spent at a small and quite eccentric primary school, before attending HSL between 1966 and 1973. She was very keen on sport, playing in the first teams in lacrosse, hockey, cricket and tennis, as well as the table tennis team. There were matches most weekends - her boarder friends loved away matches as Helen always generously shared her mother's delicious rolls and ginger cake on the coach. Her other love was Science, in particular, Physics: there was a textbook called Physics is Fun and Helen was always trying to convince us all of the truth of this statement - not successfully in everyone's case! Unsurprisingly, she took Physics at A level, was Head Girl in 1972-3 and went to Birmingham University to study Physics, before going on to teach the subject.

Helen met her husband, Dave (also a physicist), in Birmingham, where they spent the first years of their married life. She gave up work to raise their three boys, and the family moved to Faringdon, Oxfordshire. Helen returned to primary school teaching when the boys were older, later working in teacher training and science projects, and gaining a reputation as an inspirational communicator. Theirs was a very happy family, and Helen took great pride in her boys (Dave included), and their achievements. More recently, she welcomed their partners into the family and became a doting grandmother to her five grandchildren.

The outdoors was another of Helen's passions - she enjoyed walking in the countryside and had become an expert photographer of birds and wildlife; many of



her photos were taken in Scotland, where she and Dave spent many holidays and welcomed many visitors. She was spending time there when she became unwell so suddenly.

Helen was a very popular and well-respected pupil at school, calm and level-headed, but with a mischievous streak. This continued in her professional life, and she became very involved in the community and in her local church, being a governor at the local primary school and a licensed lay minister at church.

Helen will be much missed: she was a clever and resourceful person, but she was much more than that to those of us who knew her - a faithful Christian, with a wonderful, loving family, a thoughtful colleague, and a steadfast and caring friend."

**Isobel Weller (née Williams) and Anne Rees**

**Marianne Rees (née Phillips)**

We were saddened to hear that Hywelian Marianne Rees (née Phillips) sadly passed away on 28th November 2022. She attended Howell's between 1938 and 1945 and, according to her daughter, Anne, "never ceased to tell us how much she enjoyed her time at school".

**Gwyneth George**

"One of the oldest Hywelians in South Wales, Gwyneth (commonly known as Mary) George passed away on 30th December 2023 at the age of 98. She was awarded a scholarship in 1936 and left the school in 1944. If you were at school with Mary and remember her, please feel free to contact the family through the school. Her funeral took place on 31st January at 1pm at St Isan's Church, Llanishen."



**Elinor George**



**From the Archives**

"I am very grateful to Lyn Owen, who kindly wrote the lion's share of the report below while I was away on holiday. Lyn and Julia Winkler provide constant support, showing interest, commitment, ideas and good humour, and I wish to record my thanks to them."

**Janet Sully**

This time last year we were in the throes of trying to sort ourselves out in our new home at the top of Cumberland Lodge. The task continues, and we are making some progress. Going through our archive possessions has had the effect of distracting us, as we find long-lost treasures which set us off on side tracks. It's all very exciting, but not really conducive to sorting ourselves out!

The Board Room has been undergoing redecoration – and very nice it looks, too. However, all the archive material which was on display had to be dismantled and moved, and we are now trying to decide what is to be replaced and where it is to go. There is a suggestion that some of our display material might be appropriately located in other parts of the school buildings – sports memorabilia in the pavilion and science artefacts near the labs, for example. It sounds exciting and a lovely way for students to appreciate the history of the school as they move around the place.

We continue to research past pupils and their achievements, often in response to a query from a former pupil or relative. Two of our recent acquisitions were the school autograph book and MBE (with associated documents) awarded to Joan Bowen, who was a pupil from 1921 to 1931. Joan gained a science

degree at Aberystwyth and after some years teaching in this country went abroad to give distinguished service in the field of education for African women. She worked in Tanzania, Zanzibar and finally Zimbabwe, where she held the appointment of Director of Women's Education. We also recently received a delightful framed series of pictures painted by Shirley Howells, a boarder from 1945 to 1952, depicting scenes of school life. These illustrations won Shirley the Dr Parry's Prize for original work by a boarder in 1952. Interestingly, Shirley's grandfather, Joseph Howells, was a school governor 1927-34.

The treasure trove of photographs we hold is a challenge when we are unable to identify those whose images have been preserved, especially where sports teams are involved. We ask Hywelians to help out when there are events such as the Summer Lunch, but the level of success depends on whether those attending coincide with the years at Howell's shown on the photos!

**We are always delighted to receive artefacts, documents or photographs (suitably identified!), so see what you can find for us!**



## The Sue Rayner Service to Others Award

The Guild was delighted to receive the following letter from the recipient of the 2023 Sue Rayner Service to Others Award.

I would like to extend my thanks to the Hywelian Guild for awarding me the Sue Rayner Service to Others prize. I understand that Sue Rayner acted as Secretary of the Hywelian Guild - in my time in Howell's College, I was honoured to act as secretary for the Rotary Interact group, and I greatly enjoyed how this role allowed me to demonstrate and improve my communication and organisation skills in a charitable setting specifically.

I am truly grateful to have received the Sue Rayner award as it not only recognises my efforts but also connects me to the legacy of someone who dedicated themselves to serving others.

Many thanks and best wishes,  
Grace

## Hywelian Summer Lunch



Hywelian Summer Lunch! The eagerly anticipated Hywelian Summer Lunch and AGM, on Saturday 29th June, promises to be a highlight on the Hywelian calendar. Join us in the glorious Great Hall for a day filled with nostalgia, camaraderie, and delightful moments.

The school doors will swing open at 11am, allowing ample time to wander through familiar halls and revisit cherished memories. The Annual General Meeting (AGM) is scheduled for 12:30pm, preceding the gastronomic delights awaiting you at 1pm. This isn't just any AGM - it's an opportunity to gain insights from Howell's Principal, Sally Davis, who will share the latest updates on life at Howell's today and I will reflect on my highlights of the Hywelian year. The event will conclude at 4.00pm.

Whether you're marking a special reunion or simply eager to connect with fellow alumni, we would love to see you. If you're planning a reunion and would like help contacting your year group, do contact Hannah Roberts using the details below, who will be more than happy to assist.

Tickets, priced at £30, cover a delicious two-course lunch, accompanied by wine, water, and soft drinks at your table, as well as tea and coffee. Secure your spot by [clicking here](#), emailing Hannah Roberts at [hywelians@how.gdst.net](mailto:hywelians@how.gdst.net), or calling 02920 261825.

You can also scan the QR code:



Hannah can also assist in reserving tables for you and addressing any dietary preferences.

Join us for a day of celebration, connection, and shared memories. You will be warmly welcomed!





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