



THE  
**HEADINGTONIAN**  
 | 2020 |



THE HEADINGTON 2020

# KEEP IN TOUCH!

We love to hear from our Headingtonians. Make sure we have your current contact details so we can keep you informed of what's going on at Headington.

There are lots of way you can stay in touch with us:

-  headingtonians@headington.org
-  +44 (0) 1865 759101
-  Development Office, Headington School, Headington Rd, Oxford OX3 7TD
-  Twitter
-  Facebook
-  LinkedIn

**Join Headington Connect:**  
**[www.headingtonconnect.org](http://www.headingtonconnect.org)**

Find career opportunities, mentoring and work experience and connect with Headingtonians, Sixth Formers, current and former parents.



# DEAR HEADINGTONIANS...

“ Welcome to this year’s Headingtonian, the magazine for our global alumnae network.

I hope you and your families are safe and well. In the current climate of Coronavirus and economic uncertainty, the need to support each other and focus on the health and wellbeing of our communities has never been more vital. During these extremely difficult times and amidst the challenges we all face, I am pleased to share with you some uplifting stories from our alumnae who are making such a positive impact across the world.

I have been inspired to read about what all our Headingtonians are doing now, including [Tor Harris](#)’ focus on building a sustainable economy and [Acushla Young](#)’s drive to combat period poverty. These examples bear remarkable

similarities to what pupils have been doing at Headington during our Year of Community, where we have been celebrating some excellent community work that has always been an important part of a Headington education. As well as working with our local communities in Oxford, we have encouraged pupils to engage in wider global issues including climate change and poverty.

Never has our ‘Year of’ been so important as right now. Last year we successfully launched our online professional networking platform [Headington Connect](#) which allows Headingtonians, Sixth Form students, current and former parents to engage with one another virtually and develop career mentoring, work experience and business networking opportunities. We are thrilled that almost 900

people are already on the platform and at a time when being part of a ‘virtual community’ is our new norm, we would love even more people to take advantage of this digital platform to make professional connections and re-discover old friends.

Please continue to tell us your uplifting and inspiring stories or offer your support via [Headington Connect](#). Once we re-open the School gates, we look forward to welcoming you back to Headington in person. In the meantime, stay safe and well and please continue to keep in touch.



**CAROLINE JORDAN**  
HEADMISTRESS

“ It has been a busy year at Headington, full of opportunities designed to strengthen, support and shape the relationship we all have with our School.

I have thoroughly enjoyed attending various [Headington events](#) over the last year. Looking back, two such occasions particularly stood out for me - the magical Carol Service at Christ Church Cathedral which always marks the start of the festive season, and the excellent lecture given by Richard Venables DL, Former High Sheriff of Oxfordshire who spoke about what is happening in Oxfordshire’s communities. Richard’s lecture was particularly fitting during the School’s Year of Community, and despite having lived in Oxfordshire for many years, I learnt a lot!

None of us could have anticipated the impact of the Coronavirus crisis, and all of us are being tested in ways we couldn’t even have imagined a few weeks ago. Inevitably, the global pandemic will have an effect on our forthcoming events and it is with great sadness that we will not be together for Headingtonians’ Day this year. For all those alumnae who had been planning to return to School on 13th June, we will make Headingtonians’ Day in 2021 an extra special celebration, so please mark your calendars now for Saturday 12th June 2021.

The wider Headington community is incredibly supportive and of course we are all lifelong members. Now is a time to stay in touch and reach out to each other in new ways. I have particularly enjoyed reading the monthly

[60-second digests](#) on Headington Connect, and always look forward to reading about the huge variety of things Headingtonians have done after leaving School.

Enjoy the magazine, stay safe and well and please do continue to share your news. I look forward to seeing you at one of the events over the coming year, once everything settles down.



**JANE WOODCOCK** (1975)  
HEADINGTONIANS’  
CHAIRMAN

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## BRINGING TOGETHER OUR HEADINGTON COMMUNITY

*Launched in 2019, Headington Connect is our online platform which allows the Headington community to engage with one another and develop business networking, career mentoring, work experience and job opportunities. We now have over 850 members including Headingtonians, current and former parents, former staff and Sixth Form students.*

Now available to download on android by searching 'Headington Connect' or for iOS please download the 'Gradway Community' app and select Headington Connect from the list.



*"As a Sixth Former, Headington Connect has been an extremely useful platform to reach out to others for career advice. I hope that one day I will be able to provide the same support for future students!"*

**Cici Hong, U6 Student  
Alumnae Prefect**



### LISE MCNALLY (2009)

#### **What are you doing now and how has your career developed?**

I'm a newsreader and reporter for ITV News, currently covering the North West of England. I joined ITV News as one of their nine graduate trainees when I finished University, and worked as a producer in Bristol for a couple of years before moving in front of the camera. At the moment I present the morning headlines for the North West into Good Morning Britain, and film and edit news reports for ITV news.

#### **What advice would you give to someone seeking a career in your field?**

Make sure you're going into broadcast journalism for the right reasons. It's a very varied job and you have the potential to make a positive impact if you tell the right story in the right way. But it's also hard work, high pressure, and can involve a lot of standing around in the cold waiting for your cue! If it's right for you and you're happy to put the work in, then make yourself a journalistic jack of all trades.

#### **What does the future hold for you?**

I'm about to leave the studio setting for a while, spending six months as an on the road reporter - so I can say goodbye to the middle of the night alarm clock for a bit...

# Getting to know our Headington Connect community

To celebrate our Year of Community, each month we feature a member of Headington Connect in our '60 seconds with...' digest. Read snapshots from Headingtonians who have already taken part.



## JESSICA SILVER AND NANCY FARMER (2002)

### What are you doing now and how has your career developed?

After leaving school, Nancy became a physiotherapist and I was working in marketing and business development. We always thought we could work well together so put this to the test by starting a company, ElWell, based in Oxfordshire, which helps people improve their overall wellbeing as they get older.

### What advice would you give to someone seeking a career in your field?

To start a company, the most important thing is believing in your idea. Speak to people about it (every conversation can open a new door!) and listen to advice, but ultimately you need to trust your gut instinct. Oh, and make sure you've got a great action list and record all the wins along the way!

### What does the future hold for you?

We want to grow ElWell across Oxfordshire (and beyond)! We're creating an ElWell community so we can help more people by providing local wellbeing advice. We'll have tried and tested reviews online and we'll be running a series of talks across the county which will inspire people as to how they can stay independent as they get older.



## MEGAN ROWLANDS (2009)

### What are you doing now and how has your career developed?

I'm a Logistics Officer in the Royal Air Force. I joined straight from University, and I've been serving for six years now. I've been lucky enough to travel all over the world, and this career has stretched me far beyond my own horizons. I've worked in support of a number of global Operations but my current job involves delivering disaster relief with the helicopter force. My next role will be to train a new generation of airmen and women, which will be both inspiring and rewarding.

### What advice would you give to someone seeking a career in your field?

The Armed Forces are such diverse organisations there is a place for everyone. The RAF saw my potential and I was up for a challenge. I am now a specialist Logistician with the confidence and skills to lead the men and women under my command, something that I never imagined possible. Don't be put off by the idea that it is just for confident, practical people who want to engineer cutting edge technology or run around with weapons.

### What does the future hold for you?

I hope to continue to progress up the ranks, as we need more women in senior leadership roles. Although huge strides are being made in this area, in a traditionally male-dominated environment, there are marked benefits to the diverse ways of thinking that women can bring. The key is getting women into the right senior leadership roles, where their influence will have the most impact. I hope to be one of them.

**JOIN  
HEADINGTON  
CONNECT TODAY**  
and receive our monthly  
'60 seconds with...' digest.



# HEADINGTON CONNECT GRANT



*Even after leaving Headington, we encourage you to have a life-long connection with the School. As a Headingtonian, our aim is to continue to support and help your future development through career mentoring, work experience and business networking opportunities. To celebrate the launch of Headington Connect last year, the Development Office launched the Headington Connect Grant. Read about last year's winners, Emma and Hayley and find out how you can win up to £200 towards expeditions, charitable work or medical electives.*

## EMMA ROBINSON

2018



In June 2019, I spent a month on the Fiji Islands, volunteering with Think Pacific, a charity aiming to help Fiji overcome poverty and health issues by providing high quality tuition, sports coaching and promoting healthy living. I lived with a Fijian family, experiencing the traditional 'kaviti' lifestyle, including weekly ceremonial 'kava' sessions and traditional underground cooking.

Our arrival to Navutu, a small village on the biggest Fiji island, Viti Levu, was greeted with excitement, especially from the children. Our families did everything they could to make us welcome, including giving up their beds in exchange for the kitchen floor.

Our first day in School involved observing the teaching and getting to know the children. I was helping Years 3 and 4, especially those struggling to keep up. It soon became apparent that the Fijian teaching style was very different to the British, with slower learners left behind by the teaching methods used, such as copying from the board. When we first

started taking children for 1:1 tuition, some couldn't recognise numbers and letters or write their own names, so we took our teaching back to basics and after three weeks, the improvement we saw was highly rewarding.

I'd like to think we made a lasting impression in the School; for me, it was an experience I'll never forget. We introduced structured sports lessons and 'house cup' and learnt songs and dances which were performed at the end of the week. It was amazing to see children excelling in areas where they wouldn't normally have the opportunity to achieve recognition.

Saying goodbye was incredibly emotional - the excitement of coming home balanced with the sadness of leaving our second families. I can't wait to return one day knowing I will be welcomed back with open arms. I hope I'd see some of the ideas we implemented still being used, such as the weekly women's exercise class and our suggestions on eating less sugar and fried food. Readjusting to life at home was hard, having come from such a friendly community back to what now seemed like a materialistic Western World.

The Headington Connect grant enabled me to help make a difference in Navutu and Lomowai Primary School, for which I'm very grateful.



## HAYLEY JOHNSON

2014



I began my medical elective in Kuching, Borneo and spent the latter part in the Obstetrics & Gynaecology department at Maharaj Nakorn Chiang Mai Hospital, Thailand.

In Kuching, most time was spent in the Emergency Department at Sarawak General Hospital and I also worked with "Charlie Chan's rural outreach team" run by local volunteers. Charlie Chan's provides monthly visits from a doctor, dentist and mobile pharmacy to extremely isolated longhouses up to 12 hours from Kuching, where medical access is sparse and locals rely on NGOs (non-governmental organisations) for their healthcare.

In comparison with the NHS, the biggest difference I observed was at the outreach

clinic, where locals keep their own paper medical records; every month they receive a basic health check including blood pressure and heart rate recording. Many of the locals had extreme presentations of disease and infections that had developed substantially before receiving their monthly medical attention. This was a privileged and rare opportunity for me to observe the vast discrepancies in healthcare within countries as well as witnessing the role and value of NGOs in remote areas.

Starting work in the Emergency Department at Sarawak General Hospital was rather anticlimactic in contrast to spending time in the deep rainforest. Generally, the care and scope of healthcare resources was similar to my experience in the UK; the differences being the plethora of doctors and relative scarcity of nurses

(opposite of UK ratios!) and overcrowding of the Emergency Department, where patients sit around the edge of the room on wicker basket chairs attached to drips. The medical conditions were similar to those we see in the UK, albeit more severe as remote patients tend to present to healthcare services later.

Moving on to Thailand, the Maharaj Nakorn Hospital in Chiang Mai had far fewer elective students and the language barrier was a much greater issue than in Kuching, where English-speaking doctors made a huge difference in facilitating involvement in the medical teams.

The Obstetrics department was inundated with patients. The antenatal clinic was a large room with 12 curtainless beds where women would lie for their examination then migrate to the central desk for their consultation. My impression was that privacy and confidentiality were less fundamental than I was used to, however patients' care on the wards and during labour was excellent. My elective

experience has humbled me; in my naivety I expected to see vast discrepancies from the UK and instead I saw highly proficient hospitals functioning well with the demands of growing populations.

Overall, my most treasured medical experience on this elective was in the rural clinic as this was so different to western healthcare; the longhouse inhabitants were extremely kind and hospitable, even if they did coerce us into drinking their local fermented rice wine, strong enough to strip paint! It reminded me just how special and - despite its flaws - remarkable, our UK healthcare system is and how important it is for me to strive for healthcare equality in my future position as a doctor in England.

I am extremely grateful to have been awarded the Headington Connect grant and hope my experiences will encourage others to apply for the grant as it is a great opportunity to receive financial support for expeditions, charitable work or medical electives!



### *Would you like to be the next grant recipient?*

To apply for the Headington Connect Grant, please join Headington Connect and complete the [Headington Grant application form](#). Applications will be reviewed by the Development team and the School Development Committee and successful applicants will be announced on Headington Connect.



**If you have any queries, please contact Alice Abbott on +44 (0)1865 759101 or [development@headington.org](mailto:development@headington.org)**

# HEADINGTON ONLINE

*As the Coronavirus pandemic unfolds and changes the way in which we communicate with each other, many people are seeking information, support, entertainment and advice online. As part of the Headington community, there are many ways you can engage with HSO online.*

## CLICK TO ENGAGE!

In this digital version of the Headingtonian, we are excited to share with you some of the inspiring online videos and content that have been produced. Wherever you see the following symbol make sure you click on it to engage with Headington in a digital format.



## TO A DIFFERENT BEAT

If you have not seen it already, earlier this year we released our school film, showing you how Headington moves '...to a different beat'. Watch here!



## ELECTRIC: PREVIOUSLY UNRELEASED LIVE MUSIC PERFORMANCE

The Music Department is proud to present previously unreleased streaming highlights of the Contemporary Music Show, ELECTRIC for your entertainment! 130 girls from U3-U6 worked incredibly hard to deliver a truly professional level performance in ELECTRIC to two sell-out audiences in 2019. The show featured Soul Train, Headingtones and Big Band, with a variety of 20th and 21st Century music from punk to soul, written specially for the Headington girls to perform. The main School Hall was transformed beyond recognition with lighting, staging, lasers, projections and haze.

[Click here to view the videos.](#)



## FOLLOW US AND KEEP UP TO DATE

-  Headington Connect
-  Instagram
-  Twitter
-  Facebook

For further information, please contact us at [headingtonians@headington.org](mailto:headingtonians@headington.org)



*Headington Development team:  
Alice Abbott, Helen Batchelor, Vicky Huggett*

# PERCUSSION PUSHING ME FORWARD

## THE SONIA VICHNIAKOV SCHOLARSHIP

JEMIMA (JIMMY) CAIRNS (2019)

*From having no formal grades in any instrument to being awarded the Sonia Vichniakov music scholarship in her Upper Sixth year at Headington, Jimmy tells us about her journey.*



I joined Headington in Year 9 and remember being amazed at the amount and variety of extracurricular activities on offer. Back then I absolutely loved sport but following an injury, music became my thing.

The music facilities at Headington are stunning. Music soon became the biggest part of my life and by the time I was in the Sixth Form I would happily spend five to six hours a day in the Music School - a combination of lessons, practising and being part of music ensembles. It's so rare to get that amount of variety anywhere, let alone at a school! It was only when I was in the Sixth Form that I really started to take music seriously and think I could pursue it further.

Being the first person to be awarded the Sonia Vichniakov scholarship made me so happy and gave me so much confidence. I put most of the money towards an amazing trip to Italy for a week in Summer 2019 with the Oxfordshire County Youth Orchestra. It was an unforgettable experience and I had the best time visiting wonderful places and performing four concerts in stunning

Churches and Cathedrals, then on our return to Oxford we performed a final concert at the Sheldonian. The repertoire was brilliant: Rachmaninoff Symphony No.2, Don Juan and as encores, Pomp and Circumstance and Nimrod. Playing alongside exceptionally talented young musicians and performing this profound repertoire gave me a real insight into what to expect at University and beyond.

I'm now in my first year of a three year Bachelor of Arts Music Degree at Newcastle and so far it's been brilliant. There are four different Music degrees here and of the 70 people in each year group, I'm the only one who plays percussion which is both a blessing and a curse! I'm involved in a lot of ensembles so I've been very busy and am hoping to be part of the music committee next year, so may be even busier. It's been great for networking and I've got to know loads of people. I don't know which path I'll take after Uni; at the moment I'm thinking I'll take a year out and then apply for a conservatoire.

Looking back, it's interesting to reflect on my journey. I never really planned to do Music; I was predicted a B at GCSE and it was a surprise to everyone when I achieved an A\*! I started playing percussion in L6 and really enjoyed it and in the second term of Year 12, with encouragement from Mrs Jamison (Ms Bassett at the time), I decided that I wanted to study Music at University. A

lot of courses required Grade 8 and I hadn't taken any grades! I was so lucky to have Mr Fairbairn as my teacher; he believed in me and said 'we can do this'. With a lot of encouragement and support, in the summer term of year 12, I passed Grade 8 Percussion with Distinction. It was hard work - I was in the Music School at 7am practising two to four hours a day, but pushing myself was the best thing I've ever done and I've never looked back. I'm still in contact with Mr Fairbairn and Mrs Jamison and so appreciative of the brilliant grounding Headington gave me. I loved my time there.

I am incredibly grateful to Sara Lourie for her generosity in setting up the Sonia Vichniakov music scholarship and the experiences I've been able to have as a result. The scholarship has really helped me to grow as a musician and I'm certain that future recipients will benefit in a similar way.

Sonia Vichniakov, former Head of Music at Headington, sadly passed away in December 2016. Sara Lourie (1991), who was taught by Sonia (née Montgomery), established a scholarship in Sonia's name as a way of expressing her thanks and paying forward the love of music that she passed on to Sara. If other Headingtonians would like to contribute to the scholarship, please contact Helen Batchelor, External Relations Trustee on [hbatchelor@headington.org](mailto:hbatchelor@headington.org)



*Listen to Jimmy playing her A level recital pieces.*

# OUR YEAR OF COMMUNITY

*A review of the events and initiatives that have taken place in the School during our Year of Community.*

## NMAPS SCITT TRAINING WEEK

Before the start of the academic year, the Year of Community got underway in earnest as we welcomed around 40 trainee Maths and Physics teachers for a week's residential course as part of their School Centred Initial Teacher Training course (SCITT). For the rest of the year, the teachers honed their skills in schools around the region as well as undertaking additional weekly training, some of which was held here at Headington. If you are interested in applying for a course or want to find out more, please visit the [UCAS website](#).



## HEALTHFEST@WARNEFORD

On Saturday 14th September, Warneford Hospital hosted HealthFest - living well through activity. Since September 2019, students have spent a couple of hours each week making bird feeders and bug hotels which patients then hang around the hospital grounds whilst also tending to the hospital allotment. This has been set up by DofE at Headington School as an initiative to encourage student engagement within the local community.

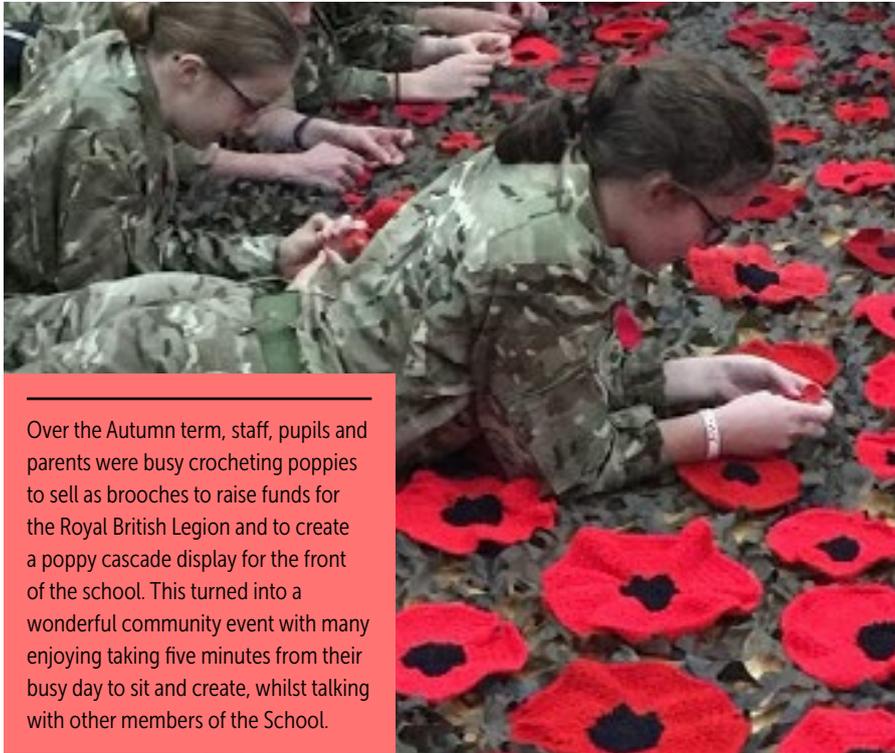


## WORLD'S BIGGEST COFFEE MORNING

This year, members of our Sixth Form Boarding community baked cakes to raise funds for MacMillan Cancer Support. Many members of the School community went along to support and the total amount raised was £503.65, more than double the amount raised last year!



## WE WILL REMEMBER THEM



Over the Autumn term, staff, pupils and parents were busy crocheting poppies to sell as brooches to raise funds for the Royal British Legion and to create a poppy cascade display for the front of the school. This turned into a wonderful community event with many enjoying taking five minutes from their busy day to sit and create, whilst talking with other members of the School.

## CHANGE THE WORLD MISSING MAPS MAPATHON

This year, we held a mapathon here at Headington where our Sixth Form Geography students did their part to help map areas of the globe that are 'missing' from any map. Missing Maps is an open, collaborative project which enables people to do their part to map areas where humanitarian organisations are trying to meet the needs of vulnerable people who otherwise would not be reachable.



## PAY IT FORWARD WITH POETRY

As part of National Poetry Day 2019, on Thursday 3rd October, Headington's English and Computing departments came together to launch our 'Pay It Forward' poetry email-chain which was programmed to poetically-ping between all the members of the School community. 41 randomly selected pupils received e-mails with the first line of a poem supplied by our guest poet, Phoebe Nicholson (the line was 'A buzz round the school'), with the instruction to add a line, word or punctuation mark and send it on to the next recipient in their chain.



## HSO HARVEST COLLECTION

This year, Headington students donated their Harvest collection to our local community foodbank, CEF. CEF provide non-perishable food for those in Oxford who are in crisis. Across the year groups, form groups have worked hard to create unique donation boxes. This is always a great bonding experience and generated a mountain of much needed items for CEF.

## CHILDREN IN NEED

Headington has a long tradition of supporting Children in Need which raises money for disadvantaged children across the country. This year, we had a Children In Need bake sale, where a Headington School Star Baker was awarded for the best Children in Need themed cake. Money was also raised through a mufti day and school talent show.

## HSO STAFF SKETCHBOOK CIRCLE

Staff at both the Senior School and Prep School have signed up to be part of the HSO Staff Sketchbook Circle. The aim is to build an artistic community amongst staff at Headington, creating a structure for participants to commit a small amount of time to their own making and wellbeing, giving an outlet for artistic expression in a supportive and non-judgemental space.

## HSO MOCK GENERAL ELECTION

Three parliamentary candidates hoping to be elected in Oxford East, Oxford West and Abingdon in the December General Election addressed girls at Headington School before facing a challenging series of questions from Sixth Formers and scholars. The candidates spoke on issues including the NHS, Brexit, education, elderly care and climate change giving our students a chance to form their own opinions on the important matters faced by our government. Headington regularly runs parallel elections alongside real-world polls to support engagement in the political process. Six students took on the mantle of a different political party and took part in debates, held hustings and answered questions from fellow students and staff.



## WRITE FOR RIGHTS

On Friday 6th December, HSO Amnesty International Society organised and hosted a 12 hour event in school, joining millions of people around the world to support young people who have their human rights denied.





## HEADINGTON 'REAL' CHRISTMAS CARDS

This Christmas, the Headington writing magazine teams, Hotspot and Folio, joined forces to create original and inspiring artwork and messages for homemade Christmas card workshops. The aim of the sessions was to involve as many pupils as possible in the manufacture of more meaningful Christmas messages, whilst raising money for an excellent local charity, The Archway Foundation, which aims to combat loneliness in the community through supportive activities and companions for those who most need it. The pupils then sold their cards for donations to this excellent charity and raised just under £50.

## PERIOD POVERTY

This year, U3 and L6 students worked together on a project which works towards achieving the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. Through research, they found out that at some point in their life, a quarter of women in Oxford have been impacted by period poverty, and so decided to initiate a project in School to help improve this statistic. They delivered assemblies to the 5th and 6th form to inform them of period poverty and placed donation boxes around School. The sanitary products collected were then delivered to Oxford Community Emergency Foodbank (CEF). They also set up a donation campaign where students and staff donated unopened boxes of sanitary products in exchange for cupcakes.

## SYRIAN SISTERS CHRISTMAS APPEAL

On Wednesday 13th November, our U3 and L4 pupils heard from Nuha Abdo, a sociologist from Syria who arrived in Oxford as a refugee in 2016. Nuha has set up Syrian Sisters, an organisation with the aim of supporting Syrian women and their families in the UK and helping people get established and integrated into UK life. Our pupils worked in pairs to fill a decorated Christmas shoe box with gifts for a child and the shoe boxes were distributed at the Syrian Sisters Christmas party at the Rose Hill Community Centre.



## STAFF FESTIVE CHEER

After term finished for the Christmas break, a number of our Prep and Senior School Staff came together to spread some festive cheer to the good people of Headington! Locals and commuters passing by the main School gates enjoyed the hot chocolate and mince pies which were handed out by staff, while another group of staff sang carols at The Churchill Hospital. Both were very well received and appreciated!

# WHY DOING THE RIGHT THING IS NEVER SIMPLE

TOR HARRIS (2002)

*After six years with Waitrose & Partners working as the Head of Corporate and Social Responsibility, Headingtonian Tor Harris tells us about the challenges she and her team have faced when trying to decide 'what is the right thing to do'.*



I've always had a strong interest in sustainability, not that it was really called that when I was at school! Geography covered much of the subject matter we now consider to fall under that umbrella and – helped by Dr Jeffries and her team – I went on to study it at University. It was there that I went to a talk by someone who was working in corporate responsibility and I was immediately excited by the opportunity to work with business to maximise its positive impact on society.

Fast forward 10 years or so and I've been privileged to lead the Corporate Responsibility, Agriculture & Health team at Waitrose & Partners – a job I could only have dreamed of doing all those years ago back at Headington, partly because it wouldn't have existed then! In a nutshell my job is to make sure that Waitrose 'does

the right thing' and has a business model and supply chain that is sustainable for the long term.

Where it gets interesting is that identifying what that 'right thing' actually is is never simple! Is it better to import produce from countries where growing crops for export is the only thing providing employment and stopping people from starving, or to support British farmers and reduce food miles? Should we take all the plastic packaging off our products because that's what customers think is right? What about if the alternative packaging uses more energy and water to produce or means the shelf life is shortened and food waste increases? What's the right thing to do if we find out one of our suppliers hasn't met our animal or worker welfare standards? Do we terminate their contract on the spot or support them to make the necessary improvements? And how do we balance trade-offs between animal welfare and environmental



impact? We could drastically reduce the carbon footprint of producing chickens by increasing their stocking density but that would compromise our market leading welfare standards - which is more important? Those are the kind of questions my team and I work through on a daily basis.

The subjects and issues we're dealing with are constantly changing and one of our biggest challenges is prioritising where we should place our effort and investment. Believe it or not, even for a retailer at the top end of the market like Waitrose, operating margins are only around the 2% mark. Money is tight, we can't do everything we want to and changing the status





quo takes time. We try to understand what's most important to our customers and our Partners (everyone at Waitrose is a co-owner or Partner in the business) and take advice from NGOs, research institutes and government on where we should focus our efforts. I can confidently say that our sustainability and ethical standards are higher than any other major UK retailer but it's impossible to be perfect, and there is always room to improve.

A good example is plastic. A couple of years ago very few of our customers were bothered by plastic packaging and very few environmental groups were talking to us about it. That changed almost overnight with the Blue Planet programme. Suddenly, something customers had wanted for convenience had turned into something many of them were completely outraged about (I knew because of the piles of returned packaging and letters telling me so on my desk!). We'd actually already done a lot on packaging reduction over many years, using 50% less packaging than we did 10 years previously, but now customers wanted us to go much further. That led, amongst other things, to our 'Unpacked' pilot store on the Botley Road in Oxford where we trialled the extent to which customers were prepared to change their shopping habits, using refills and bringing their own containers (because ultimately the best thing you can

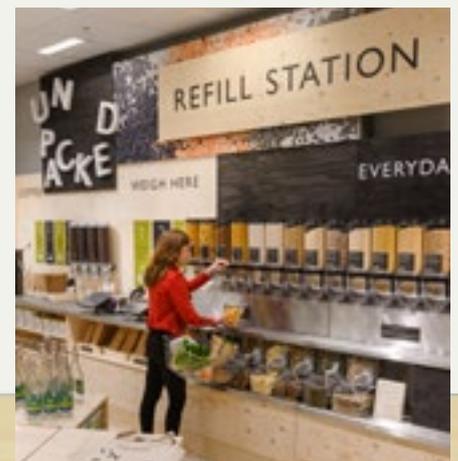
do from an environmental impact perspective is remove packaging altogether). It was amazingly popular which was fantastic. Our challenge now is working out how and where to roll it out to deliver the maximum impact. That's a big call as it requires major changes to our supply chain systems and shop layouts and processes that we can't just switch on overnight.



I've also been really proud to help further develop the Waitrose & Partners Foundation. It's a little known hidden gem about Waitrose that we and our suppliers invest a proportion of the profits from fruit, vegetables and flowers grown in low income countries like Kenya and Senegal into the communities that grow them for us. The farms set up worker committees who'll decide what they want to spend the money on based on local needs which could be anything from improving healthcare or education to financial literacy. It is truly inspiring to see the difference that makes just by people coming to us to buy their fruit and veg.

Another big focus for us has been building on our long heritage of leading the way on animal welfare standards and the strength of our partnerships with our dedicated farmers here in the UK. The sustainability of meat and dairy products have come under great scrutiny recently as the world is waking up to the climate crisis. While this new level of awareness is really positive, people are making some really kneejerk decisions like cutting meat and dairy out of their diet without properly understanding the facts. Rearing a cow on British pasture where all you can grow on that land is grass is very different to rearing one intensively on a high cereal and soya diet or on deforested land in South America. Livestock are an essential part of a sustainable farming system here in the UK (organic farming is impossible without them) and I've worked with expert nutritionists with real concerns about avoiding animal protein altogether without a carefully planned diet. Yes we should be eating less meat and more veg in developed countries but the most important thing is that when we buy meat we buy the top quality produced to the highest animal welfare and sustainability standards (which you can find at Waitrose obviously!).

Having been with Waitrose & Partners for six years I'm just about to move on to the next phase of my career. I'm setting up as a freelance consultant supporting companies predominantly in the food, farming and retail sector to build sustainability into their businesses. It's a hot topic now as people seem to really get the changes we need to make to have a truly sustainable economy and a thriving society. I'm hoping I'll be able to continue playing my part in that. [tor.harris@outlook.com](mailto:tor.harris@outlook.com)



# THE HEADINGTONIANS' YEAR

## OXFORD TOWN & GOWN

Team Headington participated in both the 10k and the junior 3k Town and Gown run in May 2019 with almost 100 members of the Headington community taking part including students, parents, staff and Headingtonians. After the race, runners were invited to come together to celebrate over a glass of prosecco and a picnic.



## SCHOOL LUNCH

After the success of last year's 'School Lunch', we once again invited parents and the wider community to sample a typical school lunch in the evening, offering them chance to learn more about an important aspect of life at Headington for our students.



## RDFZ

James Stephenson, Director of IB, was joined by Sally Keen, Maths teacher, on the annual trip to Beijing to the RDFZ Chaoyang Branch School. Whilst there, they reviewed lessons and assisted teachers in preparing students for applications to Oxbridge and are pleased to announce that one student from RDFZ has successfully received an offer to study Mathematics at the University of Oxford.



## HEADINGTON GOLF DAY

Headington Golf Day took place at Studley Wood on Saturday 18th May 2019 where members of the Headington community came together to play a round of golf in mixed teams of alumnae, current and former parents, staff and other friends of Headington.



## HONG KONG & CHINA

In September 2019, Caroline Jordan held parents' meetings and drinks receptions in Hong Kong, Beijing and Shanghai to share news and developments of the School. They were joined by Headingtonians and other friends living nearby as well as members of the Development Team who were able to share updates of the latest projects at the School. Caroline and the Development Team also had a special dinner at The China Club in Hong Kong with Headingtonians who had been at School in the 1970s and 1980s.



Back row, L to R: Dr Grace Poon (1988), Alice Abbott (staff), Dr Wendy Wong (née Lo, 1980), Diana Chan (née Tong, 1977), Keren Tsang (née Tsang, 1984).  
Front row L to R: Helen Batchelor (née Miles, 1978, staff) Grace Fung-Oei (1972), Mrs Jordan, Mr Jordan



Michelle So (Former parent) and Mrs Jordan in HK



## HEADINGTON ANNUAL LECTURE: YEAR OF COMMUNITY

For Headington's Annual Lecture, in our Year of Community, Richard Venables DL, Former High Sheriff of Oxfordshire 2018/19, Headington parent and supporter of local charities was the speaker for our Year of Community Lecture on Tuesday 25th February 2020. Parents, staff and Headingtonians attended to hear Richard share his experiences of Oxfordshire life in a talk entitled 'What is happening to Oxfordshire's communities?'. The lecture sparked an interesting discussion amongst the audience about the issues faced by communities in Oxfordshire.



## CAROL SERVICE

Headington's annual Carol Service was as popular as ever, with many members of the whole School community attending to celebrate the festive occasion at Christ Church Cathedral. This year, the Chamber Choir were joined by a staff choir and several Headingtonians who came back to sing. We were lucky to be joined by Elizabeth Nurse (2012), the first female Clerk of Christ Church Cathedral Choir.

## SIGN UP FOR HEADINGTONIANS' EVENTS

To sign up for future events, please visit the [Headington School Eventbrite page](#) (code: hsoassociation) or contact the Development Office ([headingtonians@headington.org](mailto:headingtonians@headington.org) or +44 (0)1865 759101

**Headingtonians' Day Dates:**  
**Saturday 12th June 2021**  
**Saturday 11th June 2022**

If you are in Oxford and would like to visit us, please do get in touch. We would love to welcome you back to school to reminisce and take a look at the new facilities.



# HEADINGTONIANS' DAY

SATURDAY 15TH JUNE 2019

*Last year we were delighted to welcome back so many of our alumnae for Headingtonians' Day. It was the perfect opportunity to return to School with friends and reminisce together over a wonderful lunch, as well as celebrating the contributions of retiring members of staff. Sadly, Headingtonians' Day will not take place in 2020 due to Coronavirus, but we look forward to welcoming everyone back in 2021.*



Jennette Jefferies, Kiki Glen (1990)

SAVE  
THE DATE!  
JUNE 12, 2021  
JUNE 11, 2022



Leavers from 1989 celebrate their 30 year reunion



2009 leavers Alexa Masterson-Jones, Alice Edmondson, Tara P



Leavers from 1999 celebrate their 20 year reunion with Sixth Form prefect



Charlotte Jefferies (2006), Carolyn Al-Sabouni, and Rachael Sbihi (née Jefferies, 2005)



Leavers from 2009 celebrate their 10 year reunion

**WATCH THE VIDEO**  
 If you were unable to make it to Headingtonians' Day 2019, watch the video!



Thaneuf (née Dickinson), Chloe Henderson



# ROWING THE WAY TO SUCCESS

AN INTERVIEW WITH  
**FIONA GAMMOND (2011)**

*Team GB Rower and Headingtonian, Fiona Gammond (2011) spoke with us about her 15 year rowing career, how the Headington School Boatclub (HSOBC) catapulted her onto the path to Team GB, and how she is preparing for the Tokyo 2020 Olympics.*

## ***As you prepare for Olympic selection, looking back, what was it that made you first decide to row?***

Actually, it wasn't really anything special... all my friends were quite sporty and they decided to row and I wanted to spend more time with them so I started Rowing in U3. After University I thought I might have to quit but the rowing bug hooked me in. You can't stop, it's an addiction; you get some success and you just want more. Working in a team of like-minded people is such fun. You're all working towards the same goal, with the same drive and dedication; I love it. I'm still really close with all my rowing friends from school but I'm the only one still rowing... the last one standing!

## ***Tell us about your time Rowing at Headington?***

That was when my rowing career really began. We had amazing success with HSOBC - winning the National Schools Regatta in 2009 was one of the highlights of my rowing career. Rowing at Headington secured my scholarship to Washington University and set me on the GB path for rowing. Headington had an enormous impact on my life and propelled my career. I wouldn't be where I am today without Headington. I am so grateful for everything that happened during my time at School.

## ***How has your Rowing career developed since leaving Headington?***

I studied and rowed at Washington for four years, coming home in the holidays to row in the U23 World Championships. After graduating, I was selected for the women's four for the non Olympic Worlds and I've now been on the GB team for the past three years.

Looking back, it feels like it's gone really quickly but during the rowing sessions it can feel like a slog, especially over winter. It's been a long process but I've enjoyed all of it.



HSOBC National Schools 2009 winners



### What does it mean to you going to Tokyo 2020?

It's been my dream since my first international race aged 16. It's about making my family and friends proud as well as my old rowing coaches who saw my potential right from the start and believed in me. When it comes to Olympic selection, I'd like to think that if I do miss out, I can still look back at my career and say I've done everything I could have done.

I've had a great time and have no regrets. I've travelled the world, had so many opportunities and so much success at Headington, so I can look back at my 15 years of rowing and say I'm happy. But if I did make it, it would be the cherry on the cake.

### Who has been your inspiration leading up to this point and why?

It has to be Katie Greves! She's a fellow Headingtonian and used to coach us. She taught me that you don't have to be the biggest or strongest to make it and this was the inspiration and hope I needed when I was younger. Who would have thought that years later I would find myself on the GB team with Katie for the 2016 Rio Olympics!

### What does the future look like for you, post Tokyo 2020?

I've thought about stopping but everyone keeps saying, "Fi, you're not gonna retire!". For the time being, I'd like to keep going and focus on working towards Tokyo 2020.

### What does success look like to you?

I try not to measure success by results; you need to focus on the processes to achieve the outcome, so I work towards small goals to achieve success at the end of the road. I try to celebrate something small everyday, mostly, being the best teammate I can be. My dream is to have an Olympic gold medal but if I focussed on that I don't think I'd get there.

### What does success look like to you?

Rowing is not for the half-hearted. It comes with a lot of sacrifice - not seeing friends and family, missing events such as weddings and birthdays . . . But if you've got the dream and you love rowing then it's the best job in the world. If you believe in yourself, train hard and have fun, it's worth the sacrifices. It's not a long term career so there will be time for all those missed moments later on in my life. The opportunities rowing has given me so far are unbelievable and I've made lifelong friends through it. I've been so lucky. If you love rowing then go for it.

## WHAT FUELS AN ATHLETE TRAINING 6 DAYS A WEEK?

### A day in the life of an Olympic rower

- 6am**      **1st Breakfast**  
Oats/two hot cross buns, coffee

---

- 7:30am**    **Out on the water**

---

- 9:30am**    **2nd Breakfast**  
Full English  
*(Fi's favourite meal of the day!)*

---

- 11am**      **Rowing machines**

---

- 1pm**        **Lunch**  
Salad, meat, potatoes, jelly  
*(good for your joints!)*

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- 2:30pm**    **Weights**

---

- 4:30pm**    **1st Dinner**  
Yoghurts and milk for protein  
*(and maybe a biscuit!)*

---

- 6:30pm**    **2nd Dinner**  
Vegetables, meat, potatoes, apple crumble

---

- 8:30pm**    **Bed**

---




2010 World Rowing Junior Championships – Women's Eight gold medalists (Fiona Gammond, back row, third from left)

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*Headington School's Head Girl, Georgie Cutmore interviewed James Stephenson, Director of IB. As an IB student, about to graduate, Georgie speaks with James about our celebration of ten years of the IB at Headington.*

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**Tell us about the IB at Headington?**

It has been fantastic to be involved with the IB at Headington over the last 10 years, and in particular to see hundreds of students complete the course. As with most things at Headington, it is the students who make it so memorable.

The IB Diploma programme allows students to study individual subjects alongside the core of IB - the Extended Essay, Theory of Knowledge and CAS (Creativity, Service, Action). Introducing the IB to Headington in 2009 brought a number of benefits and in particular, the additional range of Sixth Form courses and teaching methods incorporated into all teaching across the Sixth Form curriculum. The IB has translated across to A level with students completing an EPQ (Extended Project Qualification) and taking classes in Creative and Critical Thinking.

As well as the impact for the Sixth Form, this cross-fertilisation has also taken place further down the school, with all teachers and departments amending their teaching to include IB-related learning activities in the curriculum for younger year groups.

**What skills have IB students at Headington gained from the course?**

The IB has been a fantastic education for our students and has prepared them so well for further study and work. IB students are literate, numerate, have linguistic skills, an understanding of both a science and a humanity and have key skills, academic and personal, developed by the core. We are often told that the jobs our students will be doing have yet to be invented - it is clear from the breadth of knowledge and skills that our students have developed that they will be ready for these roles and their associated challenges.

# CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF THE IB AT HEADINGTON

AN INTERVIEW WITH  
**JAMES STEPHENSON**  
(DIRECTOR OF IB)



# 10 YEARS OF IB TON SCHOOL

VIEW WITH  
**EPHENSON**  
(DIRECTOR OF IB)



It has been lovely to reconnect with some of our former IB students to see where they are now. Something that has struck me very clearly has been the international nature of their lives since leaving Headington. This includes study, work, and extensive travel abroad. The IB certainly helps students develop an international outlook, not only with the language learning element of the course, but also through the many international themes in the programme. This means studying translated works in English Literature, international case studies in the humanities, studying the arts from very different cultures, and also looking at international collaboration in the sciences: a truly international course.

### *Over the last 10 years, what have been the highlights of the IB?*

Each day on July 6th the school issues IB results to students. This has always been an amazing day - seeing the students excitedly celebrate, watching the pride on parents' faces and importantly sharing the successes with teachers who have worked so hard to support the students through the Sixth Form. You probably won't believe that I have been teaching for nearly 25 years - people often say that I don't look old enough! I can remember every single one of our results days since 2011.

### *With the 2020 IB cohort about to graduate from Headington, what advice would you give us for the future?*

I honestly don't think you IB'ers need much advice from me. I suppose I would suggest that you remember the things you've learnt at school - knowledge, skills and how you approach the world, people and information. Perhaps my advice would be to spend a lot of time working out what you enjoy doing, then do lots of it. Put it another way - go on and have a lot of good fun!

**FLIP THE PAGE TO  
HEAR FROM OUR  
IB STUDENTS**

**JESSICA CLARK-JONES**



Since leaving Headington, I have founded a charity (Lauriston Lights), been a wine merchant, and taught in East London through the Teach First programme. I have recently retrained as a barrister whilst volunteering as a representative at tribunals for children who have been permanently excluded from school and people who have had their disability benefits unfairly rescinded.

CAS was the starting point for my involvement in charitable work and service in the community, which has been important to me ever since. The IB also meant that by the time I reached University I was already used to dealing with a large work-load efficiently, leaving plenty of time for extra-curricular activity (be it rowing, choir, or the pub) – a life lesson for which I continue to be extremely grateful.

**JESSIE TUCKER**



After Headington, I did a Chemistry degree at the University of Oxford. Since graduating in 2016, I started working in the Medicinal Chemistry labs at GSK, a global pharmaceutical company. GSK has been funding me

through my PhD in Chemistry, and I have spent the last few years working on a GSK programme aimed at finding new treatments for Malaria.

In addition to the rigorous science and maths courses that the IB offered, which prepared me extremely well for my degree and current career at GSK, the IB impacted me in ways I hadn't expected. For example, discussions we had in my Theory of Knowledge classes have triggered some interesting discussions in my workplace about how we interpret scientific data, and IB Spanish has helped me in my personal life – my boyfriend is Spanish, and his family don't speak any English.

**GERDA BACHRATI**



Choosing to study the IB allowed me to have a higher level understanding of 6 subjects and my interest in these has extended beyond School, opening avenues of conversation with others in many different fields, both in University and beyond. I am currently practicing as a Veterinary Surgeon in Surrey, working with small animals.

Through CAS and learning how to balance this with my academic studies, I established hobbies that I pursued through University and now working life, giving me avenues to "switch off" after busy days in the practice. The CAS element of IB also helped me to be confident and communicate effectively with many different groups of people, which is essential to my job.

**SARAH HAN**



When I was writing my applications for an undergraduate degree, I realised that studying the IB helped me to stand out. The interview panel clearly showed an interest in IB and my personal statement contained a variety of experiences and ideas which were derived from diverse CAS activities, TOK and EE. The IB not only broadened my perspectives, which created a good base before acquiring an advanced level of knowledge and skills at University, but also helped me develop a strong work ethic which has been vital for my career and life.

I recently started a new job as a research scientist at UCL in Neuroscience where I will be able to develop therapeutics to treat neonatal encephalopathy with neural stem cells and antioxidant agents. I am also preparing myself for the DPhil programme which will start soon at the University of Oxford.

**REFLECTING  
OUR IB STUDENTS  
FROM THE LAST**

**KATE LITTLE**



The IB taught me the importance of critical thinking: it never felt like learning for the sake of passing exams. My favourite aspect of the IB was the freedom to focus on the things that interested me most: the Extended Essay, for example, allowed me to discover my interest in environmental sustainability.

As I transition from my academic to my professional life, I continue to build on the skills acquired during the IB. I have decided on a career in the law, possibly specialising in environmental law in years to come. Once I complete my law conversion course, I will take up a position as a Trainee Solicitor for Taylor Wessing LLP, an international commercial law firm. As a solicitor, I will have to balance an array of tasks and deadlines, just as I did as an IB student.

# IONS FROM TUDENTS

## ACH OF 10 YEARS

### LILY GRIFFEY HILL



The IB is perfect for those people who are happy with pretty much every option in a Celebrations box. I loved the fact that I didn't have to know what I wanted to do instantly, I just had to know that I wanted to be challenged. The IB will push you and challenge you and maybe make you twitch a bit, but the most important thing to me at the time was that it didn't cut off any avenue of academic exploration. I was free to love science or the humanities or both – the choice was still mine.

After leaving Headington, I went to the University of Bristol and studied English Literature. I graduated with a First and I currently work as a marketing manager/jack-of-all-trades for an Internet of Things company. So, to all you Headington folks wondering if you can be a humanities student and work in STEM, you bet your bottom dollar you can!

### PETRA BACHRATI



After leaving Headington, I went on to study Medicine at the University of Cambridge, at Pembroke College. I am currently in the final year of my undergraduate degree, completing a BA in Biological Natural Sciences, specialising in Pharmacology.

Studying the IB and learning to prioritise my time definitely helped me manage the workload of my undergraduate degree. Additionally, the global links throughout the IB diploma sparked an interest in Medicine and Public Health around the world, and I am considering working for organisations such as Doctors Without Borders once I graduate and specialise.

### SASHA LIWICKI



The international aspect of the IB really appealed to me as, for example, History wasn't constrained to just the World Wars and the Tudors, we studied everything from the South African Apartheid to Chinese 20th century history.

I'm currently studying Geography at the University of Edinburgh. I've continued my Spanish and Chinese through evening classes and play lots of sport including climbing which the IB's CAS component introduced me to. IB has helped me adapt to University life significantly. I feel more confident in expressing my ideas verbally in tutorials, as the IB encouraged me to articulate my own thoughts and arguments.

Overall, the IB was a really rewarding experience which pushed me academically and also brought me closer to my school friends who I'm still very close with now.

### KIRSTEN LI



What attracted me to the IB the most was CAS. It allowed me to explore new activities and participate in volunteer work while the Action element encouraged me to become

more active. Furthermore, I believe the high intensity of the course prepared me for University. I am currently studying for a BSc Psychology at University College London. The skills I acquired from the IB Extended Essay have been hugely beneficial when writing essays, especially when researching and referencing, and it is undeniable that while the IB may be a tough course, it helped develop me into a well-rounded person with better time management skills.

Post University, I hope to achieve my goal of becoming a clinical psychologist.

### GEORGIE CUTMORE



I really like the IB's ethos and emphasis on learning for the enjoyment of learning. Something that the IB has instilled in me is thoughtfulness. The IB really prizes reflection - it forms a key component in all aspects of the programme - and I think that engaging with this has broadened my mind and made me more thoughtful in my day-to-day life.

Once I graduate from Headington I'm hoping to study History and Spanish at the University of Oxford after which I want to live and work abroad - I feel the international focus of the IB has given me good preparation for that.

# STOPPING THE STIGMA: PERIOD POVERTY

AN INTERVIEW WITH  
**ACUSHLA YOUNG** (2014)

*After leaving Headington in 2014, Acushla Young studied Geography at The University of Sheffield. During her Masters degree in International Development, she started working with Irise International, a UK and Uganda-based organisation that educates girls about menstrual and reproductive health and makes menstrual products available and affordable in their communities. She now works for Irise as their Advocacy Coordinator.*

## **What does your role entail?**

My main responsibility is leading our Empower Period Project, based in the UK. The project aims to recruit 50 young people across communities in the UK to design, lead and implement their own advocacy projects to dismantle period shame in their communities. One of the main priorities of the project is that it harbours genuine youth leadership, getting young people to lead now, rather than being told they would make good leaders in the future.

I've worked with young women and girls on our projects in Uganda and the UK, and although there are cultural differences, we experience the same shame and embarrassment associated with menstruation – period stigma is such a powerful narrative experienced globally, but we want to turn this shared experience of shame into a shared experience of empowerment and ownership over our bodies and their functions.

## **What changes would you like to see in places where period poverty is an issue?**

In the UK, students at schools and colleges now have access to free menstrual products provided by the government which is a huge win within the period poverty fight. This will support young people to attend and engage in their education, but access to products only scratches the surface



*Acushla in Uganda, with one of the Guardian Angel Foundation volunteer's daughters, called Angel*

of period poverty in the UK. Period poverty is not just economic poverty, but poverty of knowledge, understanding, washing facilities and self-esteem. Alongside the increased access to products we are seeing in the UK, we need to be working with young people with periods to dismantle their internal menstrual stigma, which in turn will feed into the dismantling of period shame externally as a society.

In Uganda, although there is a long way to go, access to products and quality menstrual education is rising thanks to organisations like Irise who work at a National level with the Ugandan government, as well as with communities at a local level. One aspect of period poverty that greatly affects girls and women in Uganda is lack of access to toilets

and hand washing facilities which our menstruation friendly schools project focuses on by implementing inexpensive, local-led changes to school bathroom facilities.

## **What does your work mean to you?**

I feel incredibly lucky to be doing what I do, making a career out of helping other people. I always knew, even from my time at school, that I wanted to work for a women's organisation. Geography at school was always my favourite subject. We learnt about poverty in GCSE and





it was from there that I began to learn about women's poverty. To think that not all women could access what I had really motivated me to work to change this inequality. So, from the age of around 15, I knew I wanted to work somewhere that enabled me to help other people, specifically women. I think being at a

girls' school and acknowledging how privileged we all were to be there, to have everything that we did, inspired me to help others.

It's amazing to see the change in these young women and girls first hand. It's incredible to see the change in their use of language, helping them to speak positively about their natural female bodily functions which, in turn, reduces the internal stigma of periods.

**How can others help to make a change to the lives of young people struggling with period poverty?**

Irise has many ways people can get involved within the fight against period poverty. We have a range of fundraising and volunteering opportunities, such as our Mountains of the Moon expedition.

A very simple, yet effective way to stand against period poverty is to simply speak out about periods and share your menstrual experience with others around you. This directly helps to dismantle the stigma and minimise the period taboo, showing others that talking about menstruation isn't embarrassing, but empowering.

**What does the future hold for you?**

Irise is currently part of the UK government's period poverty task force, which hopes to see an end to period poverty by 2025, so much of our future efforts are going towards this ambitious goal.

I am so humbled to be working with Irise. It has truly shown me the ins and outs of a charity organisation and what goes into delivering tangible change for girls and women within an overall fight for gender equity. Being able to have a career that plays a key part in real social change is a privilege and I hope to continue working for grassroots organisations that truly put those who are vulnerable at the centre of their efforts.

Currently the focus at Irise is our emergency coronavirus appeal. To find out more about what we are doing to support women and girls during the pandemic, and to donate to our appeal, please visit [www.irise.org.uk/coronavirus](http://www.irise.org.uk/coronavirus). [acushla@irise.org.uk](mailto:acushla@irise.org.uk)

*Students at Headington have also been doing their part to raise awareness of period poverty. Read more on page 15.*



# DEVELOPMENTS

*We take a moment to reflect on the major capital de*

Headington is a special place and many generations of Headingtonians have passed through its gates, benefitting from inspirational teaching and having made friends for life.

The generosity and support of our Headington community is crucial to the School's continuing success, and financial donations have enabled us to transform the way Headington delivers an exceptional education. Fee income covers the operational running costs of the School and we are committed to keeping our fees as low as possible to ensure that Headington remains accessible to talented girls from all backgrounds.

The capital development projects undertaken in recent years have been made possible through the collective generosity of our alumnae, parents and friends of Headington. Each and every contribution makes a significant difference and we would like to thank all of our donors, without whose support the School would not be where it is today.

**2015**



### DANCE AND FITNESS CENTRE

Including a fully equipped dance studio with a Harlequin Activity Floor, a high performance fitness centre, a cycle studio and rowing room

**2012**



### DIAMOND JUBILEE BUILDING

13 new teaching rooms with IT facilities for each subject providing a new home to the Humanities, including Geography, Business & Economics

**2009**



### MUSIC SCHOOL

Including two large performance spaces, an electronics studio and professional recording studio

**2013**



### MAJOR PREP SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT

Providing a new atrium, gym, performance space, specialist art and design technology facilities, kitchens and dining room plus improvements to the music facilities

**2008**



### ALL-WEATHER FLOODLIT SPORTS PITCH

The extensive pitches are used for everything from Lacrosse to Hockey to Touch Rugby, allowing for training on the all-weather surface, year round

# AT HEADINGTON

development projects delivered over the last 11 years...



**2019**

## SIXTH FORM CENTRE

A campus-style environment where Sixth Form students can study and relax, with common rooms, work rooms, café, table tennis and outdoor area



**2016**

## LIBRARY

Award winning library in the heart of the School (site of the original gymnasium) including interactive tables for collaborative learning, genius bar and an electronic book issuing system



**2017**

## SCIENCE LABORATORIES

Fully refurbished Physics, Chemistry and Biology laboratories



**2018**

## PREP SCHOOL PLAYGROUND

New playground with lots of fun equipment and new pathways

**FLIP THE PAGE TO SEE OUR EXCITING PLANS FOR WHAT'S COMING NEXT!**

# THE HIVE

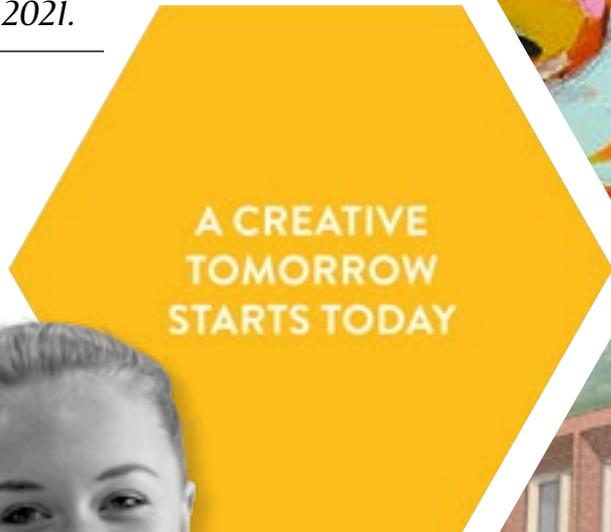
#HEADINGTONHIVE



Click to watch a video about The Hive

*As part of Headington's vision for the future and to ensure we are equipping our students with the necessary skills, we are really excited to be leading the way as a school by putting creative thinking at the heart of a Headington education. Our Creativity & Innovation Centre: The Hive is due to open in September 2021.*

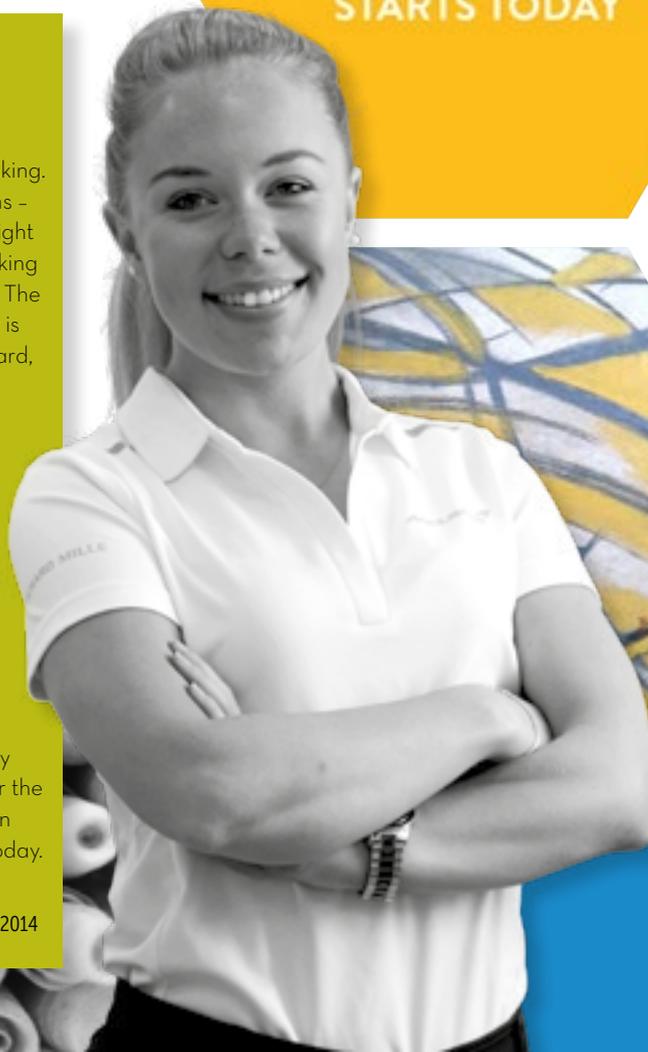
With the advent of Artificial Intelligence and increasing automation of jobs, we believe that future generations must be creative thinkers. Creativity is a uniquely human and future-proof skill, and we know that increasingly, employers are seeking creative minds to solve business problems.



Being an engineer is the perfect balance for me, requiring logical thought processes and creative thinking. At McLaren, I solve real life problems – we want to make cars more lightweight and perform faster, but I'm also working on projects regarding sustainability. The beauty of being a creative engineer is the ability to push the industry forward, but it's also about giving back and that's what I love. At Headington, I enjoyed Art, but I also had a strong passion for Chemistry and Science, all of which inspired me to study Engineering. The Creativity & Innovation Centre will provide the students with a space which allows them to be more creative and experiment across different subject areas. I thought I had to choose which route to go down but in engineering there are so many creative opportunities. If it wasn't for the creativity that Headington instilled in me, then I wouldn't be where I am today.

**Ella Podmore**

Materials Engineer, McLaren, Headingtonian, 2014



We would like to thank everyone who supports Headington School, enabling us to benefit not only our current students but generations of future Headingtonians. To find out more about our fundraising projects please click on the icon below to donate online please click on the icon below



For further information please contact Helen Batchelor, External Relations Trustee (hbatchelor@headington.org)



Registered with FUNDRAISING REGULATOR



# BOATHOUSE

## #INTHECREW

*HSOBC has so far had more than 120 girls who have rowed competitively for Team GB, an Olympian competing at the last three Olympic games, and one who has qualified for Tokyo 2020.*

Despite becoming one of the largest, most admired and successful school Boat Clubs in the UK and having a community of over 2,300 rowers, HSOBC has never owned its own boathouse or had direct access to the River Thames.

After years of renting facilities at Godstow, the School has secured planning permission for a boathouse, wet dock and boating pontoons on a site at Maddy Moorings, Long Wittenham in Oxfordshire. The eight-acre site will provide the Boat Club with 300 metres of river frontage and 5km of uncongested water.

As well as a large landing stage, boat bays and indoor storage, the new facilities will include a crew room, changing facilities and a kitchen, providing a space that Headington really can call home.



Being part of the school's first winning Championship Eight is one of the most memorable experiences of my rowing career, and the resilience and drive to be the best is something I learnt on the river. The new Boathouse with its fantastic facilities will offer Headington girls the chance to be even better, in a home they can finally call their own.

**Katie Greves**

Silver, 2016 Olympics, Headingtonian, 2001

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# LETTER TO MY PAST SELF

*Lucy Lin (2010), reflects on her time at Headington, both as a boarder and a day girl, and gives advice to her younger self through the years.*

Dear Lucy,

Now, this is difficult - a letter to your past self. But which year? And what would I want to tell you or know what you would want to hear? Well, here goes:

U3 - It's your first year boarding and...you are not listening to me. You are far too excited to meet everyone, find your new bed, decorate your planner and get your new timetable. That's fine, actually fantastic - go do all those things. It's that curiosity you have, deep within your kidneys, that's going to shape where you end up so be kind to it, nurture it and treasure it.

L4 - I wish I retained your enthusiasm for a commute of one car ride and three buses just to get to school everyday. It's going to be hard one day to be so present, so practise while you can.

U4 - You're pushing boundaries now, questioning things and asserting yourself. One thing though, it's really not worth seeing a mistake as good or bad. In 2018 you'll actually make your greatest mistake to date leading you to own your own company - actually, two!

L5 - Your commitment and passion still astounds me, whatever it may be for. Your determination and resilience will carry you through times where you will learn the most about yourself. It used to scare you, now it excites you.

U5 - I think it was here that you first really debuted your organisational skills through more ways than one. FYI this will come to be your most valued skill so continue to categorise, strategise and analyse.

L6 - Your ability to forge one on one relationships with people is one of the most inspiring ways you use your empathy. You've always liked connecting with others and you carry on to do so. So far you've connected with some pretty astounding people including the person you want to spend the rest of your life with.

U6 - You made it! - whatever that means. Truth is, and you'll soon realise, that life isn't as simple as that - black or white, easy or hard, now or never but more like 'why is there some white in the black?', 'this seemed easy but is now hard' and 'now is good but is later better?' which will confuse you but you do come to revel in it.

So there you go, a little something for each year. But the most important thing I'd like to tell you is that all of this is just a footnote compared to the story that is your life.

You become much more forgiving in your 20s, of the world and yourself. You start to see things as a part of a greater context. You accept that you can't control everything and it's now enough for you that all we can ever do is our best, one bite at a time, and have a laugh while doing so.

Also, you occasionally get back pain now so do future you a favour and keep an eye on your omega 3/6 ratios. All my thoughts,

*Lucy*

P.S. Changing the world for the better is still yet to be nuanced but very much still on the cards!

# LETTER TO MY FUTURE SELF

*Teresa Macey-Dare, an Upper Sixth Student and Head of Day, contemplates what she might say to her future self in years to come as she approaches the end of her time at Headington.*

Dear future Teresa,

Congratulations! Out of all of the possible versions of me, you are the one who came out on top. Of course this doesn't mean that you are made of the best qualities from all potentialities, so don't get too much of an ego boost. I can't predict what you are like - a world renowned Philosopher, an Army medic, or perhaps even a TV presenter? But regardless of what you have achieved in life, I hope that you have been able to retain a sense of self.

What does it mean to be Teresa? Characteristics such as inquisitive, smiley and motivated hopefully come to mind. It would be naive to imagine that you are an unchanged 17 year old mind inside an older body, but I hope that you are not too dissimilar from me. Are you still excited by the prospect of what life holds? Do you still enjoy taking on a challenge?

I wonder if you have become less indecisive, and readily embrace change even if it is unexpected? As Heraclitus once said: 'No man ever steps into the same river twice, because it's not the same river and he's not the same man'. I hope that this has remained with you to help you embrace change, both within and outside of yourself, enabling you to flourish.

The self, however, is not as I have laid it out; we are as much defined by our relationships to others as by the core properties we have. I hope that you have looked after yourself through looking out for others, whether that be your family, friends or strangers. Be grateful for the relationships you have built and experiences you have had, but more importantly look forward to everything that is to come.

*Teresa*



# FAMILY NEWS



## BIRTHS

**1. Alex Broniewski (2004):**

Alex Broniewski (née Field) and her husband Marek welcomed Luca Peter into the world in December 2018. Luca is a gorgeous smiley baby who loves rearranging the furniture and his big sister Audrey, who doesn't always feel the same way!

**2. Samantha Sehgal (2008):** Mia Jasmine was born on 19th October 2019, daughter to Simon and Samantha Sehgal (née Ward). After a difficult start with a long hospital stay, she is now thriving.



## MARRIAGES

### 1 & 2. Pascal Berthet (2004)

I finally got married (but I refuse to change my name)! The lucky man, Peter Golding, and I met in December 2018 at a Christmas ball and got married on 5th October 2019. We got married in Hampstead Heath in a deconsecrated church. My Dad and I burst into the church dancing down the aisle to Manfred Mann - Doo Wah Diddy Diddy. The wedding was attended by several Headingtonians from the same year.

### 3. Angela Edwards (née Nyakotey, 2005)

I am pleased to share the good news of my marriage to a wonderful gentleman, Mr. David Edwards on 11th May 2019 in Accra, Ghana!



**4, 5 & 6: Georgina (Gina) Hood (2007).**

In May 2019 I got married to Ollie Steadman - who was my date to the Headington Ball in 2007! The wedding was a very informal and intimate weekend with close family and friends, at a 19th Century windmill on the Norfolk coast. In the photos are: 4/ Ollie, 5/ my sister Gabby (we are the "G Hoods" on the Head Girl board!), and 6/ Katie Ovens who was in my year at Headington.

**7, 8 & 9. Amisha Adhia** (née Somaiya, 2007) married Nikhil Adhia over Easter weekend in 2019 at Coombe Abbey (Indian Wedding) and Hylands House (Civil Wedding). There were 5 events over 4 days including a Henna and Music night, pre-wedding ceremonies, two weddings and a Reception. The overall affair was very colourful with lots of friends, family, laughter and beautiful sunshine, all for Amisha to be whisked away in a hot air balloon!



4



5

Gabby and Gina Hood



6

Gina with Katie Ovens



7

Amisha and husband Nikhil Adhia's Indian Ceremony.



8

Amisha and Nikhil during their Civil Ceremony.



9

Being taken away from the wedding in a balloon.

**10. Ekaterina (Katya) Kinnear** (2007).  
 Wedding of Dr Katya Kinnear and Dr Adam  
 Walters in July 2019 with the wonderful  
 Headington girls. Special thank you to  
 Stephanie Wong and Natalie Sawaryn who  
 were the best maids of honour!

**11. Charlotte Sunderland** (née Fox)  
 (2007). Charlotte Fox married Andrew  
 Sunderland on 25th May 2019.



10

(Left to right): Jenny McNally-Cross (née McNally, 2007), Maria Root (2007), Natalie Sawaryn (2007), Adam Walters, Katya Kinnear, Stephanie Wong (2007), Antoinette Clacher (2007), Janet Chapman (née Chu, 2005).



11

(Starting two from the left): Tamsin Fox (2014), Lucy Tandon (née Copp, 2007), Charlotte Fox, Andrew Sunderland, Ruth Harrison (2007), Rachel Wallace Jones (née Eve, 2007), Jo Palethorpe (née Tolson, 2007), Emily Girling (née Evans, 2007).

# HEADINGTONIANS' NEWS AND CAREER UPDATES



Headingtonian Connect member

## 1954



### Silvia Joinson

Triumph! We've finally downsized from a four bed ex-Harwell house where we'd lived for nearly 52 years. We now have a spacious two bed apartment on the old Morland's brewery site, looking out onto a square with trees and the old Brewtower; very near town centre and buses! Grandchildren all teenagers - eldest boy 6' 5".



Patricia Crawford with her husband Iain

a third hip replacement and two cataract operations but had a great deal of help and support from my kind sister, Frances Macdonald, who came down from Skye to keep me on the straight and narrow.

## 1959

### Elizabeth Davey (NÉE MACDONALD)

It has been an interesting and busy year so far. Work I have been doing on the Victorian landscape gardener, Edward Kemp, has finally been published, together with papers by other contributors, in a recent edition of Garden History. In the summer I helped organise the local programme for Heritage Open Days, with over 70 events open to the public. I have also had fun putting together an exhibition entitled 'Made of Iron' on the history of the Birkenhead ship building firm, Cammell Laird, at the Williamson Art Gallery and Museum, which ran for five months. In between, I have had

## 1965



### Patricia Crawford

(NÉE HAMMOND, NÉE STOVES NÉE NELSON)

*Napier House 1959 to 1965.*

I thought it might be unusual for a Headingtonian to have been married three times and wondered if any of those coming up to their 55 reunion would be interested in hearing news. My first marriage gave me three wonderful children who in their turn have had seven children, all in their own way delightful. My second husband gave me a love of

the canal system and narrowboating. My third, and definitely last, husband has given me everything I have ever wished for: A love of sailing in the warmth and sometimes stormy waters round Greek Islands, although I am still terrified of water due to a near drowning when I was a child; a desire not to spend all my money, although that might be due to age; a companion with traditional values and a deep love which gives me strength, whom I can love deeply which gives me courage. We met at dancing classes but unfortunately because I was always the 'man' when learning to dance at Headington, I wasn't very good at following. Despite that we married on 20th April last year, a wonderful, sunny Easter Saturday.

I had a wonderful career in teaching, my favourite two positions as Head

teacher in village schools. I retired to care for my mother. Now my interests are flower arranging, reading, President of a local W.I. and part of the Leadership Team at the local Methodist Church.

I would love to meet up with anyone who remembers me or Jane Belfield, with whom I am still in touch and is now Philippa Weekes.

## 1969

### Philippa Hudson (NÉE YATES)

Retired Administrator/Accounts at Credit Suisse. Bsc Social Sciences 2:1 (OU) Teacher's certificate, Accounting technician. Founded two charities on Guernsey as secretary. Sporting achievements, C.I hockey, fencing. Yacht captain winning a winter series. Married, with one son and grandchild now at uni.



Pippa Hudson

## 1970

### Caroline Dawson

We have lived in the same house in Canberra for 40 years. Our three children currently all live within walking distance and we have 2 1/2 grandchildren. I still work occasionally as a psychologist at a senior secondary college (a job I enjoyed for 18 years). Hobbies include travel, (with apologies to the planet) recently Patagonia, Japan, China, Vietnam, Ethiopia and Iran, gardening (we grow most of our own fruit and vegetables), playing bridge and playing in an orchestra. I also volunteer sorting donations of books for book fairs which raise money for Lifeline counselling service. England is still home for me though and I will be there again in May this year.

## 1970

### Jackie Stacy

(NÉE HAWKSWORTH)

Well this year has been survival mode from bush fires and floods (nothing unusual for Australia). I



Jackie Stacy with her daughters

hope UK residents have been spared the floods. Farm life with cattle and chickens keeps us entertained while my 3 children and 3 grandchildren reside 500 miles and 2052 miles away (again nothing unusual for Australia!)

I tutor medical students at Notre Dame University in Sydney which is fun and encourages me that the brain is still working, having given up clinical medicine a few years ago.

## 1971



### Caroline Born

When I was at Headington we had one movement class once a month. It was the best thing I did at school, although when I was chosen as the lead role in a performance called 'Caroline's Nightmare' I was not so happy. I had to wear my long white nightie on stage and dance around avoiding a host of little demons in black leotards! But that brief contact with dance and movement was part of what led to a long career

in self-expressive movement and movement therapy working in prisons, hospitals and schools as well as working one to one with clients.

I am now writing, and have self-published my first book. It's been an exciting process working with editors, proof-readers and typesetters to achieve what I wanted and I've learnt a lot. Buying my own ISBNs and sending copies to the British Library has been fun. I was also asked by my local bookshop to re-publish my mother's local history book, The History of Kingsbridge and Salcombe, by Anne Born, which had gone out of print. I achieved this in September just in time for the festival of Kingsbridge being a market town for 800 years. My mother was a prolific translator, poet and historian and I feel proud to have brought one of her books back to life.

I have just written my first book, The Heron in Isfahan. It is a self-published memoir that recounts my journey on the hippie trail through Greece and the Middle East in 1973. It was a life-changing



Jackie Stacy with her grandson



Caroline Born, and her book, The Heron in Isfahan

experience to leave my sheltered upbringing and join the great fluid movement of people traversing the trail from west to east. Amongst my few possessions I carried a tiny Collins diary in which I wrote down everything. Re-discovering it gave me the material I needed to re-enter the world in 1973 and retrieve my naïve and intrepid teenager self. Now older, and somewhat wiser, and with the world a very different place, my younger and older selves meet in this book. I include many drawings and graphic mementos throughout this free-spirited memoir. My local bookshop, The Harbour Bookshop in Kingsbridge, South Devon, sells it and you can also buy it from me. Email: [intouch@carolineborn.co.uk](mailto:intouch@carolineborn.co.uk). I am not using Amazon for ethical reasons.

## 1971

### Abena P. A. Busia



Abena Busia

Professor Abena P.A. Busia (former Chair of the Department of Women's and Gender Studies at Rutgers University) who was appointed Ghana's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Brazil with concurrent accreditation to the eleven other republics in South

America, presented those credentials to the Presidents of Brazil, Colombia and Suriname in 2018, and to those of Guyana, Argentina, Chile, and Uruguay in 2019.

## 1974

### Elisabeth Anne Hawkes (NÉE FOUNTAIN)



Elisabeth Hawkes with husband Ronald

After 32 years of ordained ministry in the Church of England my husband Ronald and I have just retired and moved from Oxfordshire to Beverley, East Yorkshire. Our two dogs are very pleased that we have more time because we seem to be spending most of it going for walks with them in this lovely area. I hope also to continue work as an occasional freelance organist.

## 1978

### Helen Batchelor (NÉE MILES)

After a varied career working in London and internationally, I'm now back at Headington in the capacity of External Relations Trustee. After leaving University, I worked in Market Research, Public Relations and Management Consultancy, followed by 15 years at Rothschild, as

Head of Leadership & Organisation Development and latterly, Strategic Marketing for the Wealth Management business.

I've had a long association with HSO...a pupil for 10 years, a former parent and I also had the privilege of chairing the Governing Body from 2008 to 2016. Now as part of the Development team at Headington, I'm thoroughly enjoying getting to know our wider community of parents, staff and alumnae, and it's been exciting to be involved with The Hive and Boathouse campaigns, as well as doing all we can to offer bursaries to girls who would otherwise not have access to a Headington education.

On a personal note, Steve and I have been married since 1987 and we have two children, Edward (26) and Olivia (23), both of whom are living and working in London. It was great to catch up with old school friends at Headingtonians' Day for our 40th reunion in 2018; do get in touch via Headington Connect – it would be great to see people before our 50th reunion!



Helen Batchelor

## 1978

### Letitia Blake



Letitia Blake

My interest in Italy and the Italian language stemmed from my father's experience as a Prisoner of War in Italy and his dramatic escape in 1944 following the armistice a few months before when Italy pulled out of the war. All our family holidays were in Italy which my father regarded with great affection and gratitude. I seized the chance to take O and A level Italian, followed by a degree in Italian and French at St Hugh's College, Oxford. Many decades later I find myself working as Secretary of a small charity called the Monte San Martino Trust which commemorates the help given by ordinary Italians to escaping Allied PoWs in 1943 – 45, at enormous risk to themselves and their families. We offer around 25 - 30 one month study bursaries to young Italians every year to come and learn English in the UK. The Trust founder, Keith Killby, a dear friend of mine, died last year aged 102. He was the same age as my father, though they never met. I use my Italian frequently, whether communicating with my non-English speaking counterpart in Italy or collaborating



Alison Dygnas with her sons, James and Jonty, while visiting her husband's family during the Kirchtag in Villach, Austria

with Italian teachers on joint projects. I have made many close friends especially in Monte San Martino, the tiny village perched on a hilltop in the Marche where Keith was first helped when on the run. I will always be grateful to Miss Seymour, my inspiring teacher at Headington who started me on a lifelong love of all things Italian.

## 1978



**Alison Dygnas**  
(NÉE TONGE)

Due to physical disability I am no longer able to work as the strong painkillers that enable me to walk also mean that I am very drowsy. I really miss long walks and running. On the plus side, my horse is brilliant therapy and we trundle along quite happily.

This year my husband and I are taking in and helping to rehome German Shepherd dogs from Eastern Europe who are euthanised over there with the use of caustic soda. We are doing this under the aegis of Ted Kewley at Lancashire German Shepherd Rescue. If you

are thinking of buying a dog, please consider one of these, some of them are only puppies and they are all sociable with dogs and people.

My sons are now 28 and 30. The eldest, James, works in a children's home with teenagers who have been emotionally and sexually abused. This is certainly not a job many of us could do and he finds it challenging at times. My youngest, Jonty, is just the opposite. He works as a quality controller for Coca Cola. Since this requires scientific tests, it is also a job I definitely could not do!

## 1983

**Kate Cook**  
(NÉE MONTAGUE)

After 15 years in IT I took a break from work and soon felt I wanted to make a contribution to my local community, so I volunteered at my local Citizens Advice Bureau. I've now been a debt adviser there for 10 years and it has been the most eye-opening and challenging job I've ever had but also the most satisfying. Before joining Citizens Advice, my only experience of the welfare system and debt was

signing on for unemployment benefit as a student in the summer holidays and trying to repay my overdraft after graduating! This job has opened my eyes to the reality that we're often just an illness, a job loss or a relationship breakdown away from being kicked out of our home, falling into debt or needing to fall back on the welfare system. I describe my job as helping people to move 'from panic to plan'. We start by stabilising someone's finances, which could mean speaking to bailiffs, helping them claim benefits or find better utility deals, or simply opening letters they've been too frightened to look at. We help them understand their situation, reducing the fear of the unknown. My day to day job can include advice on immigration, benefits, housing, health services, employment, social care etc. I negotiate with landlords, prepare people for benefit tribunals, attend court hearings, liaise with community mental health teams - it's never the same and I continue to learn something new every day, even after so many years.



Kate Cook

I'm rather alarmed to find that I'm now a parent to two adults. Sam is in his second year at Bath studying maths (he doesn't get his maths ability from me!) and Maddie is in her last year at school studying English, Music and Theatre Studies.

## 1984

**Alice Margey**  
(NÉE PAINE)

Just returned to paid work with Yellow Submarine, a great Oxfordshire charity working with and for people with learning disabilities. Prior to joining them, I'd been a mum at home for 8 years to son Kit and enjoyed various voluntary roles. As Yellow Submarine's Grants and Trusts Fundraiser, it's a similar role to previous ones I've had with The Landmark Trust and Hearing Dogs.

## 1986



**Sian Miranda Ritchie**



Sian Miranda Ritchie and her son, Euan McCubbin

I have been teaching biology at Washington State University for around 10 years. After my PhD at Reading I worked in research at Pennsylvania State University for 6 years. I met my husband Andy there (also a Brit). We moved to Washington State in 2001. I took a kid break for several years (2 boys). Callum is at the University of Washington in Seattle, a wonderful city; Euan has a couple more years of high school. Both kids love music and science. We are near the Oregon border, where we have a

cabin which is totally off grid, great for hiking, fishing and rafting - visitors welcome!

1987



**Louise Davis**  
(NÉE WADE)

I am very much enjoying my role as an Associate Clinical Professor at the University of Warwick. I am the Case-based learning lead for the MBChB course at Warwick Medical School which is the largest Graduate Entry Medical School in the UK. I particularly like working there as the students come from many backgrounds and do not require any science qualifications. This means there is a wonderful variety of students, for example those with Classics degrees to astrophysicists or musicians to paramedics. I also work as a GP (locum).

I feel very privileged to also sing with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra Chorus. It is a great choir conducted by amazing conductors and our rehearsals are great fun! I have always loved music and remain grateful to Mr Loft-Simpson (who was then head of music) for his encouragement in lots of different musical activities whilst at Headington.



Louise Davis



Yasmina Wright and her sons, William, George and Henry

1990

**Yasmina Wright**  
(NÉE BENADEL EL BAGHDADI)

After leaving Headington, I went to Durham Uni and read Arabic with Middle Eastern studies. After some time in the TA with the Intelligence Corps and working in PR in London, I met my now husband, Aldwin and moved to Oman where he was taking up a post to command the Sultans Special Forces. In 2002 we returned to the UK dividing our time between London and Cornwall. We had twin boys in 2007 - William and George, followed by Henry in 2010. We moved permanently to Cornwall in 2007, but then back to Oman in 2012. We finally came home to Cornwall in 2015 and I run a holiday lettings and events business from home near Rock and Polzeath, with frequent visits to Oxford to help my father who still lives there. Please do come and see us.

1990

**Kate Cooper**

Last year was a big year for me, I graduated from Harvard University with a Bachelor of Liberal Arts in Extension studies, cum laude. It took 8 years to complete because I was studying part-time and is the most fulfilling thing I have ever done. It turns out I am a much better student in my 40's than I was as a teen. Although my concentration was computer science, as it is a US degree I needed to take a number of humanities and language classes in order to graduate. I chose French as my language option and thanks to the brilliant foundation Mrs. Earle gave me, I discovered that I remembered a lot more grammar and vocabulary than I thought I would. It was also fantastic to take some literature classes which re-awakened my love of literature, so wonderfully instilled by Dr. Whitehead. So a huge thank you to all the fantastic teachers at Headington who were determined to get through to a very resistant teenaged me, it worked!

1990



**Kiki Glen**

Having left the City when I had my girls, I retrained as a teacher then as a counsellor. I'm currently working in Oxford as a counsellor, primarily with young people.

I have found myself back at school as a parent since 2007. Both my girls (now 18 and 20) have had a really happy time at Headington with one studying IB and the other A level. It was an absolute joy to see Dr Jefferies still here - we didn't put her off as her first GCSE cohort(!) - and a real honour to be a part of marking her retirement last year.

1990

**Juliette Kopec**

Moved back to Oxford in 2019 (after living in London and Bristol since leaving HSO). Am now working for the Sixth Form team at St Helen and St Katharine School in Abingdon, and have crossed paths a few times with Headington in a professional capacity as well as reconnecting with alumnae living back in Oxfordshire. It is an eyeopener to be an adult taking the bus into Carfax on a Saturday!

1995



**Cynthia Wei**

(NÉE NG), LADY WEI OF SHOREDITCH

As a family we travelled in the past year, besides our annual trip to Hong Kong to see family, to Israel where our youngest, Micah, got baptised in



Cynthia Wei with husband Nat and their sons

the Jordan. Iceland in the summer gave us a chance to see amazing landscape, and summer music camps and a caravan experience at a family Christian camp was a highlight which encouraged us in our Christian faith. In October, we toured East and West coast America to make new friends and to network for our social project, Maker Life which I share with my husband, Nat. We had a private tour at Capitol Hill in Washington DC and met with like-minded enterprising people in Monterey, California, about social change in the world. We ended the year bonding as a family, skiing in Courchevel, and our boys, who are just about reaching teenage years, had a marvellous time. This year I am launching a Quest for Space project as a pilot from Silicon Valley to teach children to code experiments to send to the International Space Station. We are sad to soon say goodbye to Shoreditch but excited to start a new chapter in Ealing Common in Spring 2020.

## 1996

### Elizabeth Tucker HEADMISTRESS (1982-96)

I am very blessed to have had as ever a rich life in retirement.

My activities at home are family, church, music, the British Museum, the Highgate Literary Scientific Institution, maintaining contact with schools and friends.



Elizabeth Tucker with Sixth Form student at Headingtonians' Day 2019

We had a huge family party at my home last Christmas, with cousins meeting for the first time in some cases. My sister, Margaret, lives in Folkestone and we visit each other often. Her family are very important to me.

My parish church is St. John's, Friern Barnet, and we have a rich church life. I very much enjoy singing in the choir each Sunday, I do readings and intercessions from time to time, we have a fortnightly lunch for the elderly, for which the church school provides three 10 year olds to say their own prepared grace and then they serve us with our meals. I belong to a book club enjoying the discussions of the chosen book and we had another wonderful 3 day 'Holiday at Home' in July when the church is wonderfully decorated, this year as special gardens; delicious meals are provided and there are many activities with gorgeous shared singing. The Mozambique connection is maintained and we went to the ALMA service at St. Paul's as usual in July. Our twin church is in Beira, the

centre of the appalling cyclone in March, so we have given our church there support.

Music is a central activity for me. As well as singing in the church choir, I enjoy frequent visits from my friend who plays the violin with me and I play the cello with her. I also hugely enjoy playing the cello in the Enfield Chamber Orchestra. Unfortunately I had to miss their third concert this year as I was summoned to hospital to be fitted with a pacemaker.

I continued giving talks on the Greeks at the British Museum, and hearing lectures at the Highgate Literary Scientific Institution.

I'm sorry not to come to Headington more often, but I always greatly appreciate coming to Headingtonians' Day in the summer and seeing so many former pupils and staff. This year I have also had the immense pleasure of a visit to my home by Mrs. Jordan and Mrs. Batchelor.

## 2000



### Alice Pearson



Alice Pearson

After leaving the Inns of Court I've spent the last few years running the Household Cavalry Museum in London and working with our

Archive Collection in Windsor. It's a small, but busy place and there's nothing quite like the din of Whitehall being drowned out by noises from the historic stables below my office.

The role is a mixture of commercial development and heritage preservation, and as in all cultural remits nowadays diversifying income streams and seeking out potential partnerships is key. Such a broad remit draws on many aspects of my varied past roles and even experiences from school life at Headington before that.

I can't truly believe it's been 20 years since our school year left Headington and it'll be amazing to catch up with as many old friends as possible at the next Headingtonians' Day.

## 2001

### Esther Dingley



Esther Dingley

In Autumn 2019, I undertook my first solo thru-hiking adventure, 4 weeks along the Pyrenean Way with 2 dogs directly after another 6 week high Alpine adventure with fiancé, Dan Colegate - completing a tour of the

Matterhorn, Monte Rosa, Chamonix-Zermatt Haute Route, Vanoise and Gran Paradiso (Western Europe's largest nature reserve). Totalling over 900km with 55,000 vertical metres, these adventures are part of a much larger one...

Leaving Headington (2001) I went to Oxford University, gained a first-class degree and met Dan. A Masters at Durham and research scholarships at Durham and Cambridge followed. Rowing continued - National Rowing Championship Gold (Lwt2x); course record at Henley Women's; Home Countries representation; before switching and competing in university cycling championships. I started an online 20,000 strong postgraduate network, winning young entrepreneur awards, securing venture-capital funding, private consultancy work and still made time to volunteer at animal rescues. All was going well, or so I thought. But overtime, late nights, overworking and overeating took their toll.



Esther Dingley with Dan Colegate

In 2013 I broke down, diagnosed with ME; I struggled even getting out of bed. Just weeks away from our wedding Dan, who was having health problems himself, contracted a serious post-operative infection.

At 3 a.m. he was wheeled into surgery and we were told to 'make preparations'. Thankfully he survived. After a slow recovery, although the wedding was cancelled, we upgraded our honeymoon plans, taking off in a motorhome to tour Europe in 2014.

There was a silver lining to those dark clouds. We've experienced many different cultures, learnt how to really look after ourselves and live our dreams. 6 years on and we've had many adventures; exploring European countries and cities, working on organic farms, house-sitting, visiting ancient Egyptian Temples, trekking around Mont Blanc, cycling almost all Tour de France climbs and unexpectedly raising and becoming a furry family with 5 stray puppies! Gradually a true passion for exploring high mountains, whether by foot or bicycle, has emerged, as well as an equally strong passion to share back what we've been learning.

We've kept a blog, published 5 books and are working on 5 more. Currently I'm writing my account of the challenges and fears I overcame as a solo women trekking in the wilderness, learning to trust my own abilities and also strangers. I'm also committed to raising awareness of the importance of good nutrition and self-care practices such as yoga, without which I wouldn't have recovered from ME and found myself standing on top of mountains at over 3600m, or trailrunning 20+ hours/week with the dogs as I prepare for more adventures.

I'm incredibly grateful for both parts of my life; all the opportunities and people who've helped shape and inspire me, including all those

at Headington; teaching me to approach life with an open-mind, become more comfortable with uncertainty, learn to trust and follow dreams whilst trying not to take anything for granted. I'm excited to see where the journey will continue to take me. Dan and I, still together after 18 years, plus dogs, are still touring in our motorhome. Please get in touch if you'd like to know more, have questions or just to say hello: [www.estheranddan.com](http://www.estheranddan.com).

## 2002



### Amy Florence Joy Rich

(NÉE JEFFRIES)

I have spent the last eight years as a full-time stay-at-home mum to our three children. It was always my hope to be able to do so but we were not sure, when we started our family, whether we would manage financially. My husband - who was a youth worker when we first got together - retrained as an electrician and now runs his own Ltd. electrical company. As his salary grew, my dream of being able to care for the children full-time was realised. With our youngest daughter now in full-time nursery, I have just ventured back to the world of work but have chosen something that will both ease me in gradually as well as affording me the school holidays to spend with the children. I am working as support staff within the sixth form at Nower Hill High School, which is an Ofsted Outstanding secondary school in Pinner, not far from where we live in Harrow. It is early days for me - and I am working only two days a week for now - but it feels good to have a foot in the door



Amy Rich with her husband Edward and their children, Isobel, Tobias and Anelise

at a great school and to have taken this first step back into the world of work. My role includes overseeing the students' supervised study time, giving occasional presentations/workshops from things such as independent learning and revision skills, through to monitoring phone/internet use etc., as well as mentoring, which I enjoy and which I feel suits my personality and gifts.

I graduated from Exeter University in 2005 with a II:1 in Theological Studies. Some years later, after working in various administrative roles and alongside university-aged students, I went back to University - this time to Roehampton - to embark on a PGCE in Secondary Religious Education. I completed my PGCE and started my NQT year

at an all-girls state school in Enfield, north-London. Chronic illness prevented me from continuing and completing that year. I have never been convinced as to my going back into teaching proper, or seeking to complete my NQT year. I am not sure that teaching is for me and feel I am much better suited in more supportive and pastoral roles. However, I do not regret my PGCE year at all. It is one of the most challenging years I experienced and one of the most formative. It helped me greatly with developing organisation, planning and presentation skills; but most important or noteworthy, perhaps, were the skills I developed in classroom and behaviour management, as well as what I

learned about myself, particularly in terms of the need to keep clear boundaries in place. It did not come easily to me to be an authority figure and early on in my training year I struggled with seeking to be more of a friend to my pupils, rather than their teacher. The way I grew on a personal and professional level, in terms of self-awareness and development, therefore, was incredibly helpful to me in the long-term.

I have been married to my wonderful husband, Ed, for ten and a half years. We were married in Oxford, at St. Matthews Church, on August 8th 2009. The sun shone and our family and friends joined us after the ceremony for a lovely boat trip from Folly Bridge. Ed and I had remained friends after we got to know one another during the summer of 2004, whilst volunteering with a Christian mission organisation, Latin Link. We were serving in Argentina for seven weeks, building a house; leading youth services; and running happy hours out in the poorer suburbs in and around Tandil. I am grateful to have met and married someone who shares my faith, which was important to me, someone who makes me feel safe and with whom I can laugh lots! We have been blessed with three beautiful and bright children. Isobel is eight and in Year 4; Tobias is six and in Year 1; and Anelise is three and in Nursery. They are a delight. I am immensely thankful for them: they bless and satisfy my heart. However, I would also say that I have found parenting to be perhaps the single most challenging thing I have ever done. It has drawn from my reserves of strength and stamina, resourcefulness and resilience that I did not know I had. It has also

brought to the surface weaknesses and wounds, traits and trends that have required a response from me and a willingness to learn and grow.

I still love writing; penning poems and even a short story earlier in the year. My love of singing continues and I sing at church, in a community choir and occasionally at friends' weddings. Most of my dreams lie around writing and I would welcome advice from anyone with experience in this field. Those of you who know me may remember that my dad died when I was seven. It is only recently that I have sought help for the sorts of issues that I have carried around with me as a result of experiencing bereavement as a child. There is so much that I did not know how to properly process and it is only in recent years that I feel I have been both self-aware and brave enough to have journeyed to and through that painful place, with reference to my Christian faith also; and to have explored, with professional help, the undoing of habits and default cognitive behaviours that have not always been positive. I am passionate about mental health and pastoral care. I am thankful that this whole area is being given the air time it is due, that conversations are being opened up in society and that it is no longer taboo. I will forever be grateful for the way that Headington prioritised pastoral care; and in particular for staff who knew me and who partnered with my beautiful mum in their care and concern for me during my happy school years at Headington.

# 2003



## Miranda Warner

After eight years in an amazing job (the Parish Cow – aka Children’s Outreach Worker for a church) in which I ran an afterschool programme and holiday programmes for children, especially those with challenging behaviour, and supported their families, I decided it seemed that it was time for a new adventure. I returned to the UK from New Zealand to spend time with friends, family and to make memories with my Godchildren (nothing like circumnavigating Iceland, reading Icelandic sagas, and sleeping in a car to really deepen relationships!). After a bit more time out from permanent work during which I sampled all sorts of part time jobs from matron of 70 teenage boys in a boarding house(!), to actor, to university teacher to administrator to playwright to cleaner, I embarked on a Masters at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama in ‘Applied Theatre; Drama and the Criminal Justice System’. As a part of this I went to Cape Town to run a drama based project that explored



Annie McGrath with fellow 2008 Headingtonians, Rheanna Underwood, Shannon Mahanty, Rossie Edenbrow, Katie Chruhill, (Annie), Sophie Wilson and Eve Hemingway

emotional literacy, anger, empathy and restorative justice with a some men in Pollsmoor Prison. I did similar work with some teenage girls in a local township and ran a drama club for 8-12 year olds in the centre Marianne and I volunteered for during our gap year! The potential for this sort of work really fired me up. I’m now back in New Zealand, and after directing and producing a play that I wrote with a bunch of friends, I am now exploring the possibility of working with

probation and youth justice using drama tools, games and improv to build community and empathy and to develop tools for facing life’s obstacles well. I rocked up to Headington School’s Careers Fair last year as someone without a career, and who doesn’t really want one, but just wants to get on with building community and a more just world through oodles of creativity and fun.

# 2005

## Alexandra Bhattacharya

I am currently a Program Officer in the World Intellectual Property Organisation, a specialized United Nations Agency in Geneva, Switzerland. As a Program Officer in the Division for Least-Developed Countries, I help governments in these countries to put in place institutions, laws and policies to use intellectual property for economic, social and cultural development.

# 2008



## Annie McGrath

Just before Christmas, I curated ‘Art is the Best Medicine’ a week-long exhibition of artworks by comedians at contemporary London Gallery, Fiumano Clase, to raise money for Mental Health UK. There were some insanely talented people involved and it was a dream come true to have my art shown alongside the likes of Harry Hill, Jenny Eclair, Vic Reeves, Josie Long, Tim Key, Alex Horne, Joe Lycett, Jessica Hynes and so many more incredible comedians. I am interested in the connection between art and comedy; for me, painting acts as a kind of antidote to stand-up. Creativity is a double-edged sword which can exacerbate feelings of anxiety at the same time as being incredibly therapeutic. This is something I’m exploring in my podcast ‘Secret Artists’



Miranda Warner

(available on Acast, Spotify, and Apple Podcasts)... [Subscribe!](#)

Artworks for the exhibition ranged from drawing, painting, and photography, to poetry, ceramics, sculpture, embroidery and video art. Everything was for sale, priced at between £50 - £600, with the exception of Rob Auton's portrait of Chris Tarrant, entitled 'I Want to Be A Millionaire', which we offered for... a million pounds. Unfortunately we didn't manage to sell it, but we did sell over 70% of the works and raised more than £3,500 for the charity.

A spokesperson from the charity said "What a fantastic result – we're a bit blown away here in the office... This amount will go such a long way. It means that Mental Health UK can run its Advice and Information service in England for 3 days, which would enable our advisors to help 90 clients gain in-depth support via webchat or phone (a call on average lasts at least 30 min- the service doesn't operate as a call centre), and thousands to access free factsheets. Thank you to everyone involved in 'Art is the Best Medicine' for supporting us."



Annie McGrath with former Headington art teachers, Martin and Morag Taylor

## 2011

### Oluwashayo Oluwadamilola Okpaise

In May 2019 I published my first book! I just completed a Creative Writing short course at Stanford University earlier in the year and during this course I wrote the book, titled, *I Am Nigerian, You Might Be Too*. The book uses narrative prose and poems to unpack societal issues in Nigeria, such as sexism (specifically the issue of women being encouraged to aspire to marriage as a life goal), ageism, and the negative impacts of making life decisions based solely on money. I detail my personal challenges in pursuing my passion, while coming to realise that societal standards do not have to dictate my life goals or my aspired level of success! The book was a best seller in the UK, US and Canada.



Oluwashayo Okpaise with her book *I Am Nigerian You Might Be Too*

## 2012

### Elizabeth Nurse

(CLASS OF 2014)

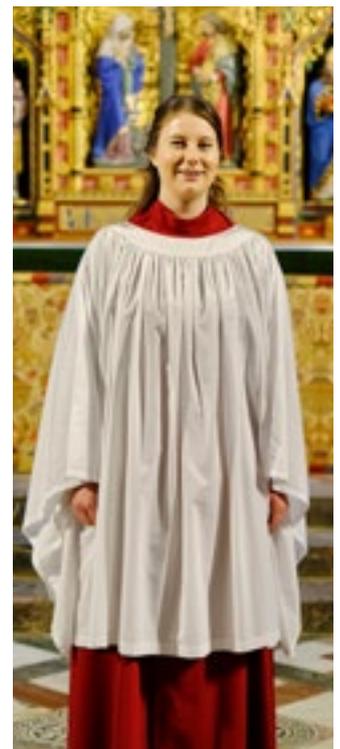
I'm delighted to share news about my career with the Headington community. I have the tremendous privilege to work as a Lay Clerk with the Christ Church Cathedral Choir; I am the first female clerk to be appointed and my duties began at the start of this academic year. A lay clerk is a professional singer, and my main duty is singing eight weekly services. At Headington I sang with the Chamber Choir and deputized with The Eleven, and a highlight was always the annual carol service

at Christ Church. One year I sadly missed owing to laryngitis, and I can look back and smile because at the time I worried about missing an opportunity to sing at the Cathedral! I can now reflect on my first (suitably busy) Cathedral Christmas.

Alongside singing, I'm still playing the violin, and recent performance highlights include performing Dvořák's Violin Concerto in the Sheldonian.

In 2019 I graduated with a Master's (MSt) in Musicology from St Catz, Oxford following my undergraduate study in Music at The Queen's College, Oxford. I've been involved as a Creative Leader with the Music Mind Spirit Trust in a project about the health benefits of music and I coordinate live music sessions for a local care home. I also work as a Vocal and Instrumental Tutor with the Bucks Music Trust, where I teach individual music lessons, co-conduct

an orchestra, and teach whole-class primary musicianship. I'm very excited to be pursuing a career in music.



Elizabeth Nurse



Alicia Green

## 2014



### Alicia Green

Alicia recently won the Women Powering Smart Energy Rising Star Award for her work in energy policy at RenewableUK. In her role she works with Government stakeholders and industry to tackle some of the policy and regulatory barriers which need solving if the UK is to meet its wind power deployment, decarbonisation and climate targets. Passionate about championing workforce diversity in the UK energy sector, Alicia has also recently been appointed as the UK Global Ambassador for the Women in Wind Global Leadership Programme.

## 2014



### Vicky Huggett



Vicky Huggett

After leaving Headington, I went to the University of Birmingham to study Music. I had an exciting three years at Uni and made life long friends whom I still see frequently. I moved back to Oxford after graduating and started working at Oxford International College (OIC) as the Super Curriculum Co-Ordinator where I assisted A-Level students through their university applications, including admission test classes, CV writing sessions and organising other extra

curricular activities such as The Duke of Edinburgh's Award and Young Enterprise. After ten months at OIC, I returned to Headington School to join the Development Team. I have been working at Headington for a year and a half, thoroughly enjoying working with my old teachers and seeing the inside workings of the staff room - (it's really not that exciting, just a lot of people queuing up for the coffee machine!). Alongside work, I have continued singing (majoring in performance at university) and I hope to attend a conservatoire in the near future to attain a postgraduate degree in Vocal Performance.

## 2014

### Magda Salvesen



Magda Salvesen

After graduating from the University of Exeter in 2017 with a degree in Combined Honours English Literature and Drama, I secured a place on NFU Mutual's Professional Trainee scheme, where I am being trained in IT and Business Management. I am currently in my second year of the three year scheme, and I'm getting great and varied experience of working in IT within the financial services sector.

## 2015



### Rhiannon Smith

Having rowed for seven years, I left Headington to study Classics at Newnham College Cambridge. In the space of my three years, I became Captain of Newnham College Boat Club in its most successful year ever. We took double headship for the first time in the club's history, proving ourselves the fastest college boat in the Cambridge Lent and May Bumps (without a doubt the silliest form of racing there is). We then beat Wadham College, Oxford at



Rhiannon Smith (two seat) and her team warming up for

the Henley Boat Races to prove ourselves as the fastest Oxbridge College last year. I picked up five blades in three years, three rowing for Newnham and two coxing for Lucy Cavendish College and St Radegund Boat Club. I have become (to the best of our knowledge and the records we can find) the only person in Cambridge history to gain two blades for two different colleges in one bumps campaign, one as a rower and one as a cox. This is truly beyond my wildest dreams of what I thought I might achieve, and I would not have succeeded without the start given to me by HSOBC for which I am eternally grateful. Oh, and I also graduated with a first!



the May Bumps race, wearing her old HSOBC visor

## 2019

### Wendy Rooney

(FORMER STAFF)

Ever keen to take on a new challenge, after leaving my teaching job at Headington after 14 years, I undertook a 25-hour online training course to become one of 1500 Crisis Volunteers with Shout, the UK's first free 24/7 text service for anyone in crisis. It's an anonymous, free conversation that won't show on a phone bill and offers 'in the moment' help for times when life gets overwhelming and immediate support is needed; volunteers take



Wendy Rooney

people from crisis to calm every single day and night.

The service is straightforward: a person in crisis sends an SMS text message and they receive an automated response explaining how the service works. The texter is then connected to a trained Crisis Volunteer. The Crisis Volunteer will help the texter move to a calm state, the texter working with the Crisis Volunteer to address the crisis and agreeing an action plan to help themselves.

One in eight 9 to 19 year olds has at least one mental disorder (Mental Health of Children and Young People in England 2017) and 30% of texters who use the service are aged between 14 and 17. The presenting issues include suicide (in 37% of conversations this is an issue); depression; anxiety and stress; relationships; loneliness and isolation; self-harm; bullying; eating or body issues, and concerns about sexual identity.

In terms of funding, The Royal Foundation made a £3 million grant to establish Mental Health Innovations in 2017. This was the biggest initiative and most significant

grant made by The Royal Foundation in its history, and The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge remain active supporters of the service, giving their time to talk to volunteers last November at the annual Shout event in London, an occasion I was lucky enough to attend.

I volunteer on a weekly basis and get to choose the 2 hour shifts I would like to cover; I do occasionally try and undertake a later slot such as 11pm until 1am although they are certainly more challenging, but have yet to build up to setting my alarm for the middle of the night to cover later shifts. There is a tremendous amount to be gained from my engagement with Shout; I can have an impact on people's lives and make a difference by resolving crises, and am learning communication, problem-solving and crisis management skills. However, above all else it is the thought that someone might be in crisis and have no one to talk to and nowhere to turn which means I will continue to be involved with this important organisation. [Text: 85258](tel:85258) [Volunteer: giveusashout.org](http://Volunteer.giveusashout.org)

# OBITUARIES

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## HEADINGTONIANS

**Martha Victor Caute**

**Jane Corbett Webster**

**Sarah (Sally) E Smith**

**Sheila Rosemary Batcheler**

## FORMER STAFF

**Jane Bulkeley**

## FORMER PARENT

**Tom Collins**

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## Martha Victor Caute

(NÉE BATES, 1943-2019)

HEADINGTONIAN, 1961

*Written by her husband, John David Caute*



Martha Caute, who has died at the age of 76, was a pupil at Headington School from 1955 to 1961, the daughter of Victor Bates and her American mother, Martha Stone Bates. Due to the fortunes of war, Martha, the third of four children, was born in Washington DC on 25th February 1943, emerging as the most English girl imaginable, modest, generous and universally popular with her family, friends and colleagues at Edinburgh University, where she read History.

I had the privilege to be married to Martha from 1973, during the happy time when she excelled as a book editor while raising our daughters Rebecca (1974) and Anna (1976). She was also the primary but unpaid editor of my own commissioned typescripts. She could spot a contradiction or discrepancy at a distance of 100 pages, and I used to find in the margins such pencilled comments

as, 'Haven't you already said this on pages 90-91?' She brought to press the work of many distinguished historians and artists, including Michael Grant, John Piper and Simon Schama.

During the twenty years after Martha's retirement from London publishing in 2001, she emerged as an admired artist, choral singer, and student of Italian. She gave generously to charities concerned with mental health. Apparently in good health herself, she succumbed 'out of the blue' to what proved to be incurable brain cancer. I first noticed that something was seriously wrong when she began to start sentences she could not complete, giving up on books and newspapers after a single paragraph. During the months she spent in Hammersmith Hospital the chemotherapy was discontinued and it became clear that her immune system was destroyed. Two days before she died from pneumonia, she said to me, so sweetly, 'If I get better...' – then could not continue. She died on our wedding anniversary, 5th May. As the proactive grandmother of Lara, Ivor and Wilfred she was totally adored.

Martha told me that she (quite) enjoyed her years at Headington. Whenever we passed the school on the London bus she would dig me in the ribs and point to an old building which had been her dormitory and from which, she claimed, one had to descend from the roof on a rope during fire drill. She was also funny about rules governing the senior girls walking abroad in Oxford (where I was a young don at the time little suspecting that the schoolgirl passing me in Broad Street was to be my future wife). Since her death I have found on her shelves the poetical works of Shelley

bound in blue leather and presented to Martha Bates, June 1961, being 'Mrs Morrell's Prize for History Essay'. Her close friend at Headington, Judy Fisher, née Hare, mentioned the prize during Martha's funeral.

## Jane Corbett Webster

(NÉE SKINNER, 1936-2019)

HEADINGTONIAN, 1954

Jane was born on 21st Decemeber 1936 and passed away suddenly but peacefully on 21st March 2019. Jane was in Queens Guide with the school and her headmistress was Miss Moller.

## Sarah (Sally) E Smith

(NÉE HARLEY, 1941-2019)

HEADINGTONIAN, 1959

*Written by Lucy Hughes (née Haynes) a friend from Headington School (1959)*



Sally died suddenly from a brain haemorrhage on 13th September 2019 in Adelaide, Australia.

She grew up, first in Headington and then in Old Marston where her parents remained and to where she made frequent visits from Australia, most recently in Spring 2019. In 1959 Sally went up to Cambridge. Initially she was more interested in animal physiology than plants and her course involved zoology and botany, but somehow plants became dominant and her life's work. She was determined to pursue a career in research, but even in the 1960s it was difficult for women to



Sally on Tresco at the Headington Guide camp in 1953 in the Isles of Scilly. Photo taken by friend Lucy Hughes.

achieve this and Sally herself said it depended on "accidents, incredible mentors and collaborators, persistence and a hefty measure of good luck". She was too modest to mention her own fierce determination and scientific abilities.

She met her husband, Andrew, during their PhD studies and they married in 1965. In 1967, Andrew obtained a post in Adelaide and they emigrated. Sally gave birth to Caroline later that year and Hilary appeared in 1970. The first ten years in Australia were occupied by temporary University teaching jobs and bringing up her small daughters. A sabbatical in Dundee introduced the topic of mycorrhizal fungal symbioses that are widespread among plants, the subject which set Sally on a true research path and on which she became a world authority. When she retired in 2006 she held a chair in Soil Science at Adelaide University, was a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Sciences and had links to institutions in Canada, Denmark, China, Japan, Indonesia and elsewhere. In addition to her academic work Sally took a lead in establishing a University child care centre which has helped many young academic families.

My personal memories of Sally are vivid and numerous. The earliest picture I have of her is

the 1947 Headington School photo which shows a small girl sitting cross legged in the front row frowning ferociously at the camera as if it were a problem to be solved – a portent of scientific curiosity to come? We shared a lot through our school years, living a few doors from each other, cycling to school together, walking dogs before breakfast, taking long days cycling and walking in the countryside in the holidays and spending a good deal of time in each other's homes. We had adventures at Girl Guide camps and a memorable Guiding trip to Italy where we discovered the delicate work being done in the cameo workshops of Florence. There was the happy day when Sally married Andrew and I was her bridesmaid. Two years on there was a convivial supper at her aunt's home just before the flight to Australia. Contacts continued and in 1994, I went with my husband, Anthony, to visit them at their lovely house in the Adelaide Hills. It was an old, stone built property and around it they had created a beautiful garden, the scene of many neighbourhood and family gatherings over the years. Extensive travels, gardening and bird watching were passions. While we were there we were delighted to be included on a trip to Kangaroo Island, south of Adelaide. This was a favourite holiday haunt for Sally and Andrew with its rich bird life and astonishing land forms. It seems entirely fitting that an island beach, with oyster catchers and other shore birds, is where Sally's ashes are scattered.

After the shock and sadness of Sally's death there was a happy post-script. In 2019, the state of South Australia celebrated the 125th anniversary of legislation to enable women to vote and stand as MPs (the first in Australia). The University of Adelaide featured 46 women associated with it who had blazed a trail for gender equality. Sally was included and was represented on-stage by Hilary at the ceremony.

Sally's breadth of knowledge, wide interests, drive and industry, her gift for friendship and her sense of fun touched many lives across the world. She will be sorely missed.

## Jane Bulkeley

(NÉE MOLLISON, 1946-2019)

FORMER STAFF, 2006

*Written by her husband, Rip Bulkeley*



Jane Bulkeley (née Mollison, 1946–2019) was brought up mainly in the West Country, after her father became head of Barnstaple Grammar School. Her mother was Australian, and before moving to Devon Jane and her parents spent a year in Australia with that half of the family. Jane's brother Will was born in 1957, and they formed a close bond.

Jane was educated at Sherborne School, where Greek was her best subject. Despite that she went up to St Anne's College, Oxford, in 1964, to read PPE, specializing in Economics. Whilst at Oxford Jane formed lifelong friendships, took an active but measured part in student politics, and met her future husband Rip Bulkeley.

Jane left Oxford in 1967 with second class honours. She joined the Ministry of Transport, then headed by Barbara Castle, as an Economic Assistant, and worked on such radical projects as providing London with free public transport. She married Rip in February 1968 and the couple made their first home in St John's Wood.

A year later, when Rip accepted a job at the University of Khartoum, Jane left the civil service to move to the Sudan. They arrived at Khartoum Airport in a sandstorm, and shortly after a coup d'état, on 1st July 1969. Jane quickly found some part-time tuition in Economics at the University. A year later she was taken on to teach mathematics at Unity High School, an independent Christian establishment where, quite by accident, she discovered her true vocation. There too the family was joined by daughters Harriet and Rachel, born in 1972 and 1975.

They returned to Oxford during 1975 and 1976 and bought a house in Jericho. Luckily Cherwell Boat House did not appreciate Jane's cooking, thus freeing her to start teaching Economics at Headington School, under then head teacher Peggy Dunn, in September 1977. Her qualities and achievements during the 30-year career which followed have been recalled in many messages from former colleagues and students.

Jane retired in 2006 in time to take great delight in her first two grandchildren, Elodie born that year and Théa in 2009. In 2012 however she was diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease, and was obliged to move into a residential home less than two years later. She spent the last 5½ years of her life in the superlative care of Vale House, Sandford. Jane was a loving, intelligent, strong, clear-headed, funny, effective, and generous woman who is fondly remembered and greatly missed by family and friends.

## Sheila Rosemary Batcheler

(NÉE PILDITCH, 1932-2020)

HEADINGTONIAN, 1949

*Written by her daughter, Alison Fleming*



My mother, Sheila Rosemary Pilditch, attended Headington from 1946 to 1949 and was in Hillstow House. Upon leaving School she trained as a nurse, and was attracted to orthopaedic nursing. She then trained as a physiotherapist at (I think) Guy's Hospital. She met my father Les Batcheler who was a New Zealander studying at Oxford whilst on a scholarship, studying a Master of Science degree in forestry.

They married in Tonbridge, Kent in July 1958, and emigrated to New Zealand soon after. They settled in the Hutt Valley area, near Wellington. Peter was born at the end of 1959, I arrived the end of 1961, and Mike in 1964.

In 1968 the family moved south to Christchurch, and Mum started back working as a physiotherapist. She retired in 1987, and started retirement by travelling to various places, including North America, Norfolk Island and Turkey. She was a keen gardener, and guarded the strawberry patch from the grandchildren!

With failing health, Mum moved to Merivale Retirement Village (in Christchurch) in 2017 with her beloved schnauzer dog Katie. Mum passed away on 21 February 2020, aged 87 years.

She is survived by both brothers and me, and 8 grandchildren.

## Tom Collins

(1942-2020)

FORMER PARENT AND FATHER OF KATE RIBEIRO DOS SANTOS (NÉE COLLINS), HEADINGTONIAN, 1992 AND LAURA COLLINS, HEADINGTONIAN, 1994

*Written by John Broadhurst (former parent and father of Jessica Macpherson (née Broadhurst), Headingtonian, 1993)*



Tom Collins, former parent, introduced Rowing at Headington School in 1991 with John Broadhurst. Tom passed away on Monday 2nd March 2020 after he lived with Parkinson's disease for nine years. John has put together a short account all about how the boat club was founded:

In October 1990, the Lower VI at HSO were advised that although their A Levels were of paramount importance, sporting activity inserted into their daily programme was also important. This resulted in 15 girls, plus various staff and parents, gathering at the City of Oxford Rowing Club (CORC). Here we were addressed by Hilary Davis, their Junior Coach. Hilary asked the assembled company if anyone knew about the sport and might be willing to help. Perhaps without much thought, I raised a hand! On having a quick look round, there was only one other raised arm, belonging to Tom Collins. Beside him stood his daughter Kate, and beside me, my daughter Jessica.

Hilary tried to put the two of us at ease by saying "not to worry, by Christmas, the 15 will have dropped to 4". In fact, the number did change . . . it went up to 17!

So, Hilary, Tom and I got going. We put together an eight and a four which brought us to March 1991 where we entered the two crews in the Schools Head of the River Race; still at that time competing under CORC colours. There are all sorts of memories from that day.

While we were rigging the boats, I asked for a 10mm spanner and was duly brought a screwdriver; we were on a learning curve after all! The girls having trained on the relatively narrow Thames at Oxford had a collective intake of breath which practically took all the oxygen out of the coach as we crossed Putney Bridge. During the race, the crew members in the 4, which Tom was following on his bike, saw him hit a pothole and go off the radar. HSO staff members stood on Hammersmith Bridge and apparently yelled like schoolgirls as the crews shot underneath them. One of those present was indeed Elizabeth Tucker the Headmistress.

I think the results were that the four came 6th out of 9 and the eight, 9th out of 12. Either way, it was a fantastic result for the girls by any benchmark. This prompted Tom and me to visit Elizabeth Tucker at school and suggest that the school set

up a committee to run a School Boat Club. She looked at us and in a business-like way said "will you run it". I guess at that point in 1991, HSOBC was formed and Tom and I had to take things seriously, not that we didn't anyway!

As the sport began to be offered lower down the school, the introduction at the Hinksey Lake largely fell to me to organise, while Tom and Hilary took the river crews at CORC until HSOBC moved to the river at Godstow.

In addition to his coaching skills, Tom was a star when it came to spreadsheets. This meant that he was skilled at designing and costing various projects and indeed physically took part in the construction of boat racks for HSOBC at CORC, and latterly at St Edward's School Boat Club (SESBC). He was firmly in charge of identifying the equipment needs and 'discussing' the required funding with the Bursar, Nick Thompson. His initial conversation was after he had bought two clinker fours from the King's School Canterbury (without prior consultation!). We presented ourselves to Nick, Tom made his case and after a short pause Nick replied "I trust people until they give me reason not to". The rest is history.



John Broadhurst and Tom Collins sculled from Oxford to Henley in October 1993 (taking 11 hours and 43 minutes) to raise funds for the Boatclub.

# LEAVERS' DESTINATIONS

Congratulations to our newest Headingtonians who left the School in summer 2019, and our warmest wishes to them all as they embark on their chosen paths.

Name	Institution	Subject
Maxline Adochim	University of Exeter	Business Studies
Opeoluwa Akoni	University of Manchester	Social Anthropology
Oghosere Akpata	University of Kent	Law
Isabelle Bach	University of Edinburgh	Geography
Jasmin Barker	Oxford Brookes University	History of Art
Charlotte Barker	Rutgers University	Liberal Arts
Amy Batten	University of Exeter	Anthropology
Thalia Blick	Ravensbourne University London	Fashion
Muskan Budhraj	Gap Year	
Charlotte Buxton	University of Edinburgh	Nursing
Jemima Cairns	Newcastle University	Music
Yat Tung (Kelly) Chan	Durham University	Philosophy
Sara Yu Chew	University College London	Biomedical Science
Allison Wei-Li Chia	London School of Economics	Economics
Madeleine Clark-Jones	Gap Year	
Emma Coindy	Imperial College London	Medicine
Bethany Colborne	University of Exeter	Philosophy
Eleanor Cunningham	Manchester Metropolitan University	Fine Art
Katya Davisson	Durham University	Music
Chiara De Vita	University of Bristol	Philosophy
Florence Dixon	University of Manchester	Management, Leadership and Leisure
Charlotte Dixon Young	University of Edinburgh	French and Linguistics
Lauren Duffy	Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts	Musical Theatre
Matilda Fry	Bournemouth University	International Tourism and Hospitality Management
Liv Fugger	University of Oxford	English
Ella Gauci	University of York	English
Henrietta Gibbs	University of Liverpool	Politics
Alice Glasspool	Gap Year	
Phoebe Graham*	University of Leeds	English and Philosophy
Rachel Grainger	University of Exeter	Human Biosciences
Helen Gray	University of Exeter	Mechanical Engineering

Name	Institution	Subject
Jazmin Green	University of East Anglia	Philosophy and Politics
Teagan Greenfield	Durham University	Biological Sciences
Grace Guthrie	University of Nottingham	Modern Languages
Freya Harber	Gap Year	
Charlotte Harris	University of Bath	Social Sciences
Hei Man (Alison) Hau	University of Dundee	Biomedical Science
Lucy Henry	Gap Year	
Isabel Hickman	University of Bristol	Chemistry
Ophelia Ho	London School of Economics	Management
Nadia Hoelling	University of Bristol	History
Catherine Hollaender	University College London	Geography
Lydia Hunt	Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts	Musical Theatre
Yunru (Anna) Huo	University College London	Mathematics
Matilda Ikomi	Newcastle University	Chemical Engineering
Ioana Ionescu	University of Westminster	Business Management
Annagreta Isabella Amadio	University of Oxford	Classics
Dulcie James	University of Sussex	Psychology
Xiang (Erisa) Ji	Durham University	Business Management
Emily Jillings	University of Birmingham	International Relations
Emily Johnson	University of Edinburgh	Spanish and History
Bethany Jones	University of York	History
Fatima Khan	Gap Year	
Bethany Kippin	University of Bath	Architecture
Kar Chang (Natalie) Ko	University of Bristol	Medicine
Yuk Ting Alicia Kong	University College London	Urban Planning and Real Estate
Natalia Kubala	University of York	Genetics
Olga Kurilova	University of California, Los Angeles	Computer Science
Blanche Larenaudi	University of York	Film and Television
Audrey Lee	University of Cambridge	Archaeology
Hoi Ching (Kim) Lee	University of Edinburgh	Architecture
Man Ka (Megan) Lee	University College London	Chemical Engineering
Sze Wing (Charlotte) Lee	University of Hong Kong	Medicine
Emily Leighfield	University of Liverpool	Veterinary Science

Name	Institution	Subject
Hui Ying (Alida) Li	University of Kent	Economics
Kirsten Li	University College London	Psychology
Yi Ching (Anthea) Lim	University College London	Law
Yi Ying Samantha Lim	University of Edinburgh	Politics
Shiyu (Jennifer) Lin	University College London	Economics
Tessa McCormack	University of Exeter	Marine Biology
Hanipah Mears	Kings College London	Biomedical Science
Eleanor Merson	Newcastle University	Animal Science
Amelia Moores	London School of Economics	Psychology and Behavioural Science
Grainne Morgan	University of Groningen	International and European Law
Emily Morgan	University of Leeds	Languages, Cultures, Linguistics
Larayba Mujtaba	Gap Year	
Aerin Muschamp	Coventry University	Criminology
Mya Nott	University of Leicester	Management Studies
Abena Owusu-Ansah	Loughborough University	Chemistry
Georgina Palmer	Gap Year	
Phillippa Paton	Cardiff University	Urban Planning
Emma Pauwels	Katholieke Universiteit Leuven	Law
Alexandra Peach	Cardiff University	Marine Geography
Eva Pennink	University of Bristol	Biochemistry
Lauren Porter	Gap Year	
Anabel Pozniak	Cardiff University	Geology
Maisie Randall	University of Nottingham	Medicine
Holly Richards	Gap Year	
Coco Rifat	University of Bristol	Theology and Sociology
Sophia Ritchie	Gap Year	
Isabelle Rooney	University of Bristol	Medicine
Lucy Rowton-Lee	Gap Year	
Honor Ryder	University of Exeter	Economics
Catherine Jane Rymell	Royal Holloway	Philosophy
Zara Salaria	Kings College London	Political Economy
Rose Sandall	Cardiff University	History
Claire Saunders-Davis	University of the West of England	Forensic Science

\* deferred entry 2020

Name	Institution	Subject
Gemma Yi Ling Shaw	Imperial College London	Medicine
Tessa Siddall	University of Nottingham	Biology
Cheuk Wai (Vivienne) Sin	University of Warwick	Management
Florence Smith	Cardiff University	Philosophy
Lucie Stephenson	University of Warwick	Hispanic Studies
Lucy Stoker	University of Liverpool	Biological Science
Eliza Swanson	University of Edinburgh	Ecological and Environmental Sciences with Management
Yasmin Tajalli	University of Bristol	Law
Kit Yu (Claudia) Tam	University of Bath	Architecture
Katia Theologis	University College London	History with European Language
Georgia Thorne	University of Exeter	Computer Science
Zhi Yuet (Natalie) Tiong	University of Warwick	Psychology
Nina Todres	Gap Year	
Jing Wen (Ashley) Tok	University of Bristol	Law
Maria Toms	Gap Year	
Elizabeth Townhill	University of Birmingham	History
Jacqueline Tsui	University of St Andrews	Psychology
Eliza Turner	University of Leeds	Fine Art
Tarien van der Merwe	Oxford Brookes University	Biological Science
Alice Van Onselen	Newcastle University	Politics
Phoebe Veelenturf	Gap Year	
Pannaporn Vikitsreth	Kings College London	Religion, Politics, Society
Emily Waldron	University of Nottingham	Criminology and Social Policy
Stephanie Ward	Gap Year	
Esther Watts	University of Exeter	Theology and Religion
Tian Heng (Tiana) Wong	University of Hong Kong	Social Sciences
Wenqi (Jenny) Xue	University College London	Economics
Yan Yu Natalie Yau	Newcastle University	Architecture
Choi Yi (Natalie) Yeung	University of Bath	Architecture
Wai Sum (Elaine) Yeung	University College London	Project Management for Construction
Shi (Zoe) Zheng	University of Southern California	Graphic and Media Design
Fangyi (Erica) Zhou	University College London	Architecture



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