



# Cheam Alumni NEWSLETTER

IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE CHEAM FOUNDATION | 2024





# From the Head | Nick Milbank



Nick & Kirsten Milbank

I write my first newsletter as Headmaster with immense pride and happiness. After 25 years of teaching at Cheam, I am deeply honoured to find myself in this privileged position, entrusted with the leadership of a school that holds such a special place in my heart. I carry the Cheam baton with great care, fully aware of the rich history that precedes me and the exciting journey that lies ahead. Cheam is more than a school – it is a cherished community for so many, and I am committed to leading it with the respect it deserves. My goal is to evolve Cheam thoughtfully, preserving the traditions that are so deeply woven into its fabric while embracing new opportunities for growth and progress.

After 25 years here, my name may already be familiar to many, hopefully for the right reasons! For those I have yet to meet, I warmly invite you to visit Cheam. I would love the chance to reminisce, share stories and discuss the exciting

future that lies ahead for our school. Each term at Cheam brings much to celebrate – events, concerts, matches, services, results, scholarships and so much more. Yet, the true highlight is the vibrant community. Cheam is nothing without its people. It is the positivity, hard work, enjoyment and unique talents of everyone here, young and old, that give this beautiful estate its heartbeat. The laughter, camaraderie, dedication and passion that fill our school each day are what make Cheam truly special.

To all who receive this newsletter, please know that we are simply continuing the work you began during your time at Cheam. The current Cheam community is thriving – happy, enthusiastic and with a deep affection for this special place, just as you did. I hope you will find an opportunity to visit Cheam and experience its magic once again. Here's to another extraordinary year for our school and its ever-growing family.

# William Gilpin | A Man with a Vision

2024 marks the 300th anniversary of the birth of William Gilpin, probably the greatest of all Cheam's Headmasters over the years. Here we record a résumé of his life and work, with particular mention of his years as Cheam School's sixth Headmaster from 1752 to 1777.

William Gilpin (1724-1804) had the traditional upbringing of a member of the British upper class in the 18th century. Born in a castle, he was the bearer of a respected family name and the recipient of an excellent education. With two degrees from Oxford and the opportunity to use family influences to gain ready employment, Gilpin seemed destined for a successful career in the church. Indeed, after graduating with his M.A. in 1748, he took up a curacy in London. His six years at Oxford had prepared him for a profession, but he was not convinced that the system of teaching used was the most effective. He had ideas on how to do it better and decided to put them into practice, so in 1752 he moved to Cheam in Surrey and became Headmaster of Cheam School.

In his school Gilpin began to institute his progressive reforms. He involved his students in devising their own discipline system, encouraged the learning of practical skills, such as gardening and business techniques, and instilled in them a sense of community service. The school was a success and established Gilpin's reputation as an excellent teacher, but unfortunately it was not instantly a financial

success, so, to raise the necessary funds to pay back what was left of his Oxford debt, Gilpin decided to write a biography of his grandfather, John Bernard Gilpin, nicknamed the Apostle of the North. The venture was well received and launched Gilpin's parallel career as a biographer of English religious reformers. Throughout his career, Gilpin produced nine subsequent biographies.

During his summer holidays, Gilpin began taking walking tours in the English countryside. He recorded his trips with sketches and a running commentary. Urged on by his friends, he published the account of his tour to the Wye Valley and South Wales in 1782. He presented the countryside in an exciting new way, and people in Britain were captivated by his images. They wanted more, so Gilpin obliged with illustrated accounts of six more tours, four published during his lifetime and two posthumously. His aesthetic attitude to landscape, which he called 'picturesque', had a major impact on the British public and helped shape a movement that defined English taste for the next 50 years.

In 1777, Gilpin retired from his strenuous teaching profession and returned to the ministry. With the assistance of one of his former pupils, he acquired the vicarage of Boldre in Hampshire. He then directed his attention towards improving conditions in his parish by promoting the establishment of a

new poorhouse and by personally building and providing an endowment for a parish school. During this period Gilpin also published collections of his sermons and several works intended for religious education. As with his previous writings, his religious work found an appreciative audience. In the latter part of his life, Gilpin auctioned his original drawings and used the funds to further endow his parish school.

William Gilpin died in 1804 after a long and productive life. He had achieved respect and admiration for his accomplishments in five separate spheres: education, biography, art theory, religion and philanthropy.



# Save the date



## CHEAM ART EXHIBITION Thursday 1st May 2025

Following the success of the last Cheam Art Exhibition, the Cheam Foundation will be hosting the event again on Thursday 1st May 2025. The exhibition will shine a spotlight on the Arts, whilst raising funds for the Cheam Foundation and local Berkshire-based charity PACT (Parents and Children Together). Every child at Cheam, from Reception to Year 8, will contribute a piece of artwork, which will be framed and hung on professional exhibition panelling, and judged by established artists.

When we last hosted this event in 2022, the auction was a big fundraiser, helping us to raise over £56,000. We would therefore be so grateful if past pupils and parents would consider donating their artwork again for the live and silent auction. In 2022 we were lucky enough to receive artwork from alumni Oliver Akers-Douglas, Isla Watt, Rupert Hartley, Robbie Wraith, Simon Murray, Rosie Bedford, Amelia Karsten, Imogen Knight and Harvey Day, as well as past parents Mary-Ann Watt, Jemima Prest, Davina Parkhouse, Charles Wilson, Sam Sopwith, Becca Del Mar, Annabel Miller, Oliver Barnes and Jennie Slater. We are incredibly proud of our talented alumni.

We will be producing a beautiful catalogue to accompany the exhibition, which will be printed and distributed to over 300 people on the night, as well as emailed to our alumni community. If you are interested in donating artwork for the auction, advertising in the catalogue or sponsoring the event, then please don't hesitate to contact **Victoria (Vale) Edgington** on [edgingtonv@cheamschool.co.uk](mailto:edgingtonv@cheamschool.co.uk)

All alumni and past parents are warmly invited to drinks on 1st May 2025, so please do save the date in your diaries.

SPORTS HALL | CHEAM

THE CHEAM FOUNDATION

ART EXHIBITION

1.5.2025

7PM TO 9PM

CHEAM SCHOOL | HEADLEY | BERKSHIRE



# Cheam Pre-Prep | Twenty-Five Years On



Marion Scott-Baker with Pre-Prep children

### THE MOVE

Imagine the challenge of packing up a complete school for a move to new premises during a summer holiday, when so many people are away for a well-deserved break. It is certainly not a job for the faint-hearted, yet this is what happened in July 1999, when Inhurst House merged with Cheam Hawtreys. Inhurst House was a well-established day school for girls aged 3 to 11 and boys aged 3 to 8, located in a beautiful house in Baughurst belonging to Anne Weisselberg.

### THE WELCOME

By 1999 Anne Weisselberg was in her 90s and planning to move closer to her family, so Inhurst House was put in the position of having to look for a new home. Around the same time Cheam Hawtreys, under Chris Evers, was looking to move with the times by opening its doors to younger pupils and girls. Amalgamation with an already successful girls' school, with a roll of young and female pupils, was the ideal solution. In September 1998, Cheam School welcomed not only a new young dynamic headmaster, Mark Johnson, and his wife Jane, but also, during the course of the school year, 70 new pupils, mainly female and under seven years old.

### THE SQUEEZE

The new Nursery soon held a full complement of pupils, but the other Pre-Prep classes were less well accommodated in those first few years. Reception classes were squeezed into classrooms around the courtyard, having little access to the outside experiences that the Early Years curriculum required. Year 1 shared what had been the IT suite, with only a stiff folding plastic door between the two rooms; much co-operation was therefore required between

staff to ensure that children in both classes could hear their teachers. Two of us soon gave up the struggle to work independently in this difficult space and instead introduced a system of team-teaching, co-operating across the two classes rather than fighting to be heard! Meanwhile, Year 2 were accommodated in temporary buildings that had been lifted into the grounds by crane during the summer holidays. We were ready to go!

### THE TRANSITION

Having been the Head of School at Inhurst House, Margaret Smallwood was made the nominal Pre-Prep Head at the newly merged establishment, but in practice she was fully occupied teaching her preferred age range in the prep school, so, as I had been Pre-Prep Head at Inhurst House, I continued to run the new Pre-Prep department but without the title, until Margaret retired from the post a year later.

### THE ACCOMMODATION

The thing that we all missed most of all was a place to meet up for assemblies, music lessons and PE. The solution was an innovative one. The construction of a new sports hall had left the old, corrugated-iron farm building empty. It was a freezing and draughty place, but a cosy marquee with very noisy heating was pitched inside, and it became the venue for After School clubs, an Assembly Hall and shelter for wet playtimes. Even though our accommodation left much to be desired, the department continued to grow from strength to strength. We arrived with a strong and hard-working team, together with the children, and the department thrived in its new home.

### THE DEVELOPMENT

The new Pre-Prep building, incorporated within the Art, Design and Technology department of The Duke of Edinburgh Building, was officially opened by Prince Philip in 2013. By that time, we had designed and built an outdoor classroom, where Forest School learning was offered. Oxford University Press had awarded us 'Model School' status for our achievements in literacy, and the department had achieved an 'outstanding' grade in the school's Ofsted report. My roles as Chair of the IAPS Pre-Prep Committee and Editor of the SATIPS Pre-Prep Broadsheet during those years meant that Cheam had become a national centre for pre-prep staff training, which was often held in the marquee, otherwise known as the Big Top. My long-standing team were also able to benefit from this excellent continuing professional development.

### THE ETHOS

Schools are not just about buildings. They are also about relationships, and I was lucky enough to have had a brilliant staff who worked well together and were happy to be creative and innovative in their teaching. In the years up to seven, children learn a quarter of all that they will learn in their lives, and the majority of all that they learn comes through the observation of the behaviour of the people around them, such as how to behave towards others, how to solve problems, how to enjoy learning and how to learn effectively.

I consider that my staff and pupils were fortunate to become part of the Cheam School ethos, where love, respect, hard work and achievement were values modelled so effectively. Children in the Early Years learnt that Cheam School was a very happy place to be. My recent visit to take part in the quarter-century celebrations of the Pre-Prep made it clear that my successors have sustained those values and that the Pre-Prep department continues to be 'the best that it can be'. The children were loved and happy, and the department was very successful.

Marion Scott-Baker (99-13)

# The Pre-Prep Silver Jubilee Concert



Rebecca Cavill (Pre-Prep Director of Music)  
Megan Harley-Martin  
Jenifer Hillman (Head of the Pre-Prep)

The Pre-Prep Jubilee Concert was a wonderful opportunity for us to come together to celebrate 25 years of the Pre-Prep and share some very special musical performances. We were also delighted to welcome back Cheam old girl Megan Harley-Martin (06-16), who started her musical journey in the Pre-Prep and is now the first ever female tenor scholar at St Peter's College, Oxford.

Since its inception in 1999 and the official opening of the new building by the Duke of Edinburgh in 2013, hundreds of children have benefited from the happy and supportive environment we offer our youngest year groups. The first musical event involving pre-prep children from Inhurst House in 1998 featured a performance of Benjamin Britten's *Noye's Fludde*, and this nostalgic memory inspired our theme for the Jubilee Concert, connecting the past with the present. After the concert there was tea.

A great deal has changed since Headmaster Chris Evers decided to open Cheam up to the Early Years 25 years ago. In 1999 the Pre-Prep opened with just a handful of girls. Today, there are 100 pupils on our roll. Whilst we've grown over the years and our site has undergone numerous transformations, the Pre-Prep's values and ethos remain unchanged; we continue to strive to provide the very best possible education and start in life for all our children.

Jenifer Hillman (19-)



# The Cheam Foundation



As well as being the school’s hub for communication with alumni, the Cheam Foundation also supports current and future generations of Cheam children via fundraising for the school. It relies on the generosity and commitment of its supporters, and we are enormously grateful for all the financial support we receive.

The strength of Cheam has always been its community, and the Cheam Foundation has received some outstanding gifts of funds and resources from alumni and parents over the last year. During 2023/24, the Foundation’s fundraising focus has been on life-changing bursaries. Thanks to the generosity of the Cheam community, the Foundation is currently supporting three children from low-income families on fully-funded, means-tested bursaries and, since its inception in 2018, has supported several other children who are now thriving at senior schools.

The Cheam Foundation is a registered charity (Charities Commission no. 1177913), ensuring that all donations are ring-fenced from school finances and only used for the Foundation’s registered objectives: bursaries and projects. As a separate legal entity from the school, the Foundation has a Board of Trustees who each serve a term of three years. If being a Trustee is something that interests you, then please do get in touch with us.

# The Current Cheam Foundation Trustee Board



**CHARLIE CHIPCHASE (CHAIRMAN)**  
Charlie has been a Cheam parent since 2016. He is currently Managing Director at Petra Funds Group, a fund administration provider to private equity firms. Before that, over a 25-year-career as a lawyer he worked within large international law firms before becoming general counsel and head of sustainability for a US private equity firm. Away from work, he’s an avid Newcastle United fan and very average golfer.

What I love about Cheam: Div Cross Country – an event that takes place often on a cold, dark and rainy afternoon in February, yet brings to the fore a lot of the things that are wonderful about Cheam.



**NICOLA BEARMAN**  
Nicola is a parent of four children who have all attended Cheam, with one currently still enrolled. Nicola is a Director at Pacific Investments, a global investment firm. Her passion for charitable work began in her teenage years and continues today, including her notable involvement in a campaign for Great Ormond Street Hospital, which raised over £7 million.

Nicola is deeply committed to Cheam, having been connected to the school not only as a parent but also as a sibling of former pupils. A strong advocate for supporting bursary students, Nicola is passionate about creating opportunities and making a meaningful difference in children’s lives through education and charity work.

**ANDREW GARROOD**  
Andrew is a current Cheam parent. His motivation to serve as a Trustee stems from a desire to enable any child to have the chance to be a pupil at Cheam, irrespective of his/her family’s financial circumstances. He understands how transformative and challenging such an opportunity can be, as his own childhood was defined by being the beneficiary of just such a gift, both at prep school and then Eton College. Andrew works in the gaming industry, building automated trading systems for clients across the world.



**ELLISHA HALFORD**  
Elisha has three boys at Cheam, and her husband Chris was Head Boy of Cheam in 2002. It was the school’s engaging learning environment, unchanged values and strong sense of community that brought the family back to Cheam. With a master’s degree in Pharmacy, Elisha previously worked as clinical pharmacist at GSTT and KCH in London, before re-locating to New York, where she focused on starting her family.



**TARA REEVE**  
Tara Reeve is Director of Admissions at Downe House, having spent many years in many different roles, most latterly as housemistress in one of the sixth-form boarding houses. Tara’s love for Cheam started in 2006 when the youngest of her three daughters started in the Nursery. She was impressed by the ‘give anything a go’ culture at Cheam, with children building resilience through sport, music and drama, as well as through academic endeavours. Tara also serves as a Cheam Governor.



**AMY SUGDEN**  
Amy is a specialist family law advocate, having been called to the Bar in 2006. Previously a tenant at 1 Hare Court Chambers, Amy is currently a tenant at Pump Court Chambers, specialising in financial remedies in divorce and private-law children disputes. Amy has three children, two of whom are still at Cheam.

Thank you to past Trustees, Christopher Eadie (Chairman), Emma Dawson, Cari Depla, Tia May, John Moore and Fiona Barratt-Campbell for their time and support between 2019 and 2023.



# The Cheam Foundation

The Cheam Foundation hosted various fundraising events throughout the year, and we are enormously grateful to everyone who supported and attended them.



**Mary Poppins Gala**

On 14th March 2024, the Foundation hosted the *Mary Poppins* Opening Night Gala, with Year 8 parents transforming the dining room into a suffragette-themed London. A fabulous raffle, ice creams, popcorn and programme adverts raised over £3,490 on the night, and an accompanying Big Raffle, which was extended to the whole school, raised a further £4,675.

## Wellbeing Talk

On 12th October 2023, nutritional therapist Elodie Stanley gave an informative presentation on health to a packed audience in the Chapel. It was lovely to see so many past parents from previous years, who joined us for the morning.



The Foundation was very grateful to receive a generous donation gifted specifically to replace the indoor cricket nets in the Sports Hall. The new Cheam-branded nets are now installed and being enjoyed by all.

# Bryan Adams Foundation Classical Concert for Children by Candlelight



On 10th December 2023, the Bryan Adams Foundation and the Cheam Foundation collaborated to host a special classical concert for children by candlelight in the Cheam dining room. Bryan performed *Christmas Time* and *Silent Night*, alongside a mini Cheam choir, and introduced inspiring young musicians Adam Heron (piano), Mathilde Milwidsky (violin), Sarah Dufresne (soprano), André Callegaro (piano) and Sofia Patterson-Gutierrez (flute). The event raised over £44,000, which was shared between the Nordoff and Robbins Music Therapy Charity and the Cheam Foundation.

## The Big Book Club Bash

On 25th April 2024, the Foundation hosted the Big Book Club Bash at the Jenna Burlingham Gallery in Kingsclere for current and past parents. It was a lovely evening of drinks and canapés, with novelist and screenwriter Cesca Major interviewing author and past Cheam parent Kara Gnodde about her new book, *The Theory of (Not Quite) Everything*. It was especially lovely seeing so many past parents from recent years who joined us.





The Foundation will be focusing its fundraising for the coming year on mini projects that have a direct impact on the Cheam experience of our current children. We will be looking to fundraise for various projects around the school. We will continue to welcome donations for bursaries from those wishing to support them, and donations given thus far for bursaries have been ring-fenced for this purpose.

There are numerous ways you can support the Foundation, and participation is welcomed at any level. Please do get in touch if you would like to learn more or support us in any way.



Please contact  
**Victoria (Vale) Edgington,**  
Development Director  
[edgingtonv@cheamschool.co.uk](mailto:edgingtonv@cheamschool.co.uk)  
for further information.



Gus Stafford Allen (57-60) and Jeremy West (57-62)



Jon Beddard (52-56)



Edward Troup (63-68) and John Keane (63-68)

The Foundation has welcomed back many former pupils over the year, and it is always particularly special when we see alumni who have not been back to Cheam in decades. We are always delighted to welcome alumni and old Cheam families back, so please don't hesitate to get in touch with the Foundation if you would like to visit.

# Alumni Gatherings

In addition to the memorial service for Chris and Penny Evers (page 23) and the reception to mark the 25th anniversary of the Pre-Prep (page 5), it was a pleasure to re-connect with over 80 alumni from across the generations at the Cheam Foundation London Drinks Party at the Savile Club on 27th February 2024.

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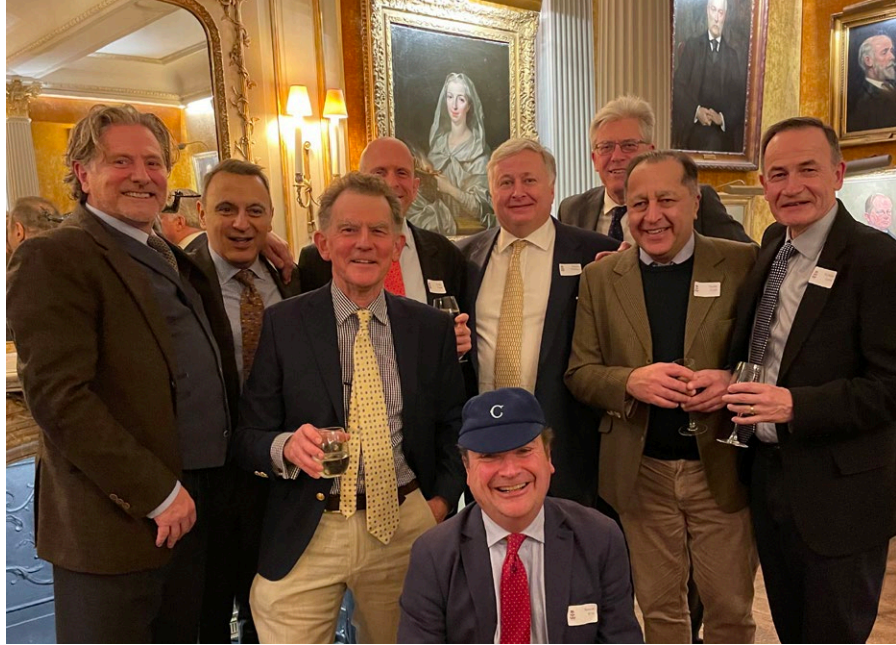
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1. Joseph Gibbons, Nick Milbank, Nick Newton, Jack Folkestone and Tom Loup 2. Jocelyn Hartland-Swann and David Daukes 3. Neal Croft, Vale Edgington and Jamie Walker 4. Henry Herbert, Majid Hashemi and James Fewtrell 5. Victoria Richardson and Chris Wilson 6. Nick Milbank, Arthur Fane and Andrew Garrood 7. Rupert Carr, Tekin Fuad, Ted Howard-Jones, Simon Phillips, Simon Witt, David Glasspool, Nadir Latif and Nicholas Litton 8. Mark Harford (Chairman of Governors), Will Phelps and Vale Edgington.



# Four Old Boys Making Waves In The Art World



“Charity Field”, oil on canvas, by OLIVER AKERS-DOUGLAS

**OLIVER AKERS-DOUGLAS:**  
**1982-1987**

Living in Wiltshire, Oliver is known for his dramatic landscapes, from the Wiltshire hills to the wilds of Scotland, Connemara, the Hebrides and, more recently, the Swiss Alps. He likes to work en plein air. Using oils applied with a pallet knife, he builds up a highly textured pigment to capture romantic billowing clouds or dramatic changes of weather.

Oliver has recently had a solo exhibition at the Mall Galleries in London, where he showed over 40 landscapes, including his newest works, which are becoming more colourful and abstract. If you had the misfortune to miss this exhibition, you can google him and watch him painting a large canvas in a field in Wiltshire. You can also follow him on Instagram – @oliverakersdouglas.

**PEREGRINE HEATHCOTE: 1982-1987**

Peregrine lives in the UK, but if you want to catch his latest exhibition, you will have to fly to Scottsdale in Arizona, where he is exhibiting at the Bonner David Gallery, or wait to see another exhibition in New York in June 2025.

Peregrine’s paintings capture a vision of the glamour of travel in a bygone age, a silver-screen portrait of adventure and romance. Painting in oils, he has been inspired by his early childhood living in Dubai. It was, he says, a time of adventure, Arabian nights, sand dunes, empty desert roads and Bedouin encampments, as well as tales from his two grandfathers of flying exploits and motoring in the 1930s. His paintings are often large and full of deep colour, and they evoke that feeling of excitement when embarking on an adventure. They invite you to find out the rest of the story! Find out more by following him on Jnstagram – @peregrineheathcote.



“Run Free” by PEREGRINE HEATHCOTE



“The Lighthouse” by HARRY HANCOCK

**HARRY HANCOCK: 1989-1994**

Since 2017 Harry has been living close to Barcelona in Spain. Holding a degree in Renaissance Art History from the Courtauld Institute, he is now making a living from his art. Interested in portraiture, he came up with the idea of webcam portraits in the pandemic so that he could continue his painting in this field. Called the Quarantine Portraits, these 40 works (the total number decided by the numerical derivation of the word ‘quarantine’) were painted with a desktop view of the sitter, who could open a live feed to have an unprecedented view of the painting in progress.

Although he will still take on a webcam portrait, Harry is now painting the landscapes in the area where he lives and has recently embarked on a music career as well! You can see more of his work on [www.harryhancock.com/new-work](http://www.harryhancock.com/new-work) or listen to his music – Hydropony on spotify – or follow him on Instagram.

**OLIVER CLEGG: 1988-1993**

In May I visited Oliver’s exhibition at the Mamoth Gallery in London and enjoyed viewing his paintings, which were not on canvas but on old floorboards from a house he was renovating in Costa Rica, where he now lives. In a quote from Purple magazine in 2016 he said, “I want to live in Costa Rica, where there is no technology and I am completely disconnected.” He says he is incredibly nostalgic for the things from his childhood, and images of these crop up in his work, but he is also worried about the amount of information that technology is offloading on us today. He is quite prolific, and a monograph about him and his work published by Anomie in 2016 says, “Clegg is an artist with great energy, incredible spirit and one of the most engaging, curious, cryptic and entertaining oeuvres currently making waves in the world of art.”

Oliver is exhibiting in the Journal Gallery in New York at present and will no doubt be in London again. Do go and experience something quite different and thought-provoking if you get the chance. Meanwhile, you can follow him on Instagram – @masteroliverclegg – or read the monograph.



OLIVER CLEGG

Jenny Trussell (Head of Art and Design Technology 84-02)



# An Article written by Dominic Price



It is some time since I was last in contact with Cheam, although, working on the same circuit, I routinely come across current pupils in fixtures against Summer Fields and at athletics meetings. However, I thought that it might be pertinent to pass on some news.



I have been Head of ICT at Summer Fields since 1998, as well as Head of Athletics (a role my father had when he was Deputy Headmaster at Cheam). I am also the Range Conducting Officer of the Summer Fields Rifle Range and Club – one of the precious few Home-Office-approved rifle ranges in the prep school world – and I oversee Oxford University Rifle Club’s usage of our range. Smallbore rifle shooting is definitely an interest that I developed as a pupil at Cheam, when Roy Somerset ran the rifle shooting in the miniature range adjacent to the original sports hall, although today I do not have to endure the bitter cold of an outdoor range in winter, instead enjoying the luxury of underfloor heating within an indoor range!

Another passion I developed at Cheam was photography, using the tiny dark-room that used to reside next to the Art Room. This is something I have continued to enjoy, and I recently completed a Master’s in Photography, which led on to the publication of my first book, *The Stained Glass & Chapels of Oxford*, a definitive illustrated guide to every one of Oxford’s chapels. Since then I have turned my attention to Summer Fields’ own chapel

with the publishing of my second book, *The Chapel of St Nicholas, Summer Fields*, detailing and illustrating its history. Both of these publications owe a debt of gratitude to Cheam, as not only did my photography flourish there but so, too, did my enjoyment of music and chapels, having sung in the choir throughout my time at school.

My parents remain healthy and enjoy retirement in Dorset, both having fond memories of their time at Cheam (Charles Price, 1968-1984: Deputy Headmaster, Head of English & Geography, Head of Rugby and Athletics). As a family we enjoyed the happiest of times at Cheam, my home until the age of 12½, surrounded by a wonderful staff of friends. I had the pleasure of enjoying the grounds as my garden in the holidays; few trees went unclimbed, and I used to love cycling around the estate and going on long dog walks.

It pleases me to continue to hear good news of the school, and I consider myself fortunate to work alongside a number of former Cheam staff, all of whom loved their time in Headley.

Dominic Price (79-84)

# BOOK REVIEW The Stained Glass & Chapels of Oxford

by Dominic Price (79-84)



A passion for photography, an interest in art and architecture and a lifetime working in Oxford have all come together in the book, *The Stained Glass & Chapels of Oxford*, by Dominic Price. Living in such close proximity to each of the chapels written about and illustrated in his book gave the author the opportunity to set out on a voyage of discovery, exploring the richness of ecclesiastical life linked to the chapels of Oxford and so often missed by those who live in the area or by visitors to this university city. With his inquisitive eye through the camera lens, Dominic has delved into the treasures of stained glass in each of the chapels he visited and has produced a wealth of information based on each picture in turn, as well as other details about the buildings themselves. The pictures illustrate in great beauty Bible stories, saints and local history. He has also passed on some photographic details to any reader who may wish to engage in a similar excursion to churches and chapels elsewhere. The book is full of colour, which immediately makes it appealing to the reader, and the text, though kept short, is ideal in maintaining interest in each of the buildings explored.

Dominic spent many years working on this book, and the final result is one that he should be justly proud of. As one opens its cover, one is immediately drawn in by the subject matter, and indeed it is difficult to put the book down. Even though Oxford may be many miles away from one’s own home, such a book kindles a desire to keep on turning the pages and maybe, at a later date, visit some of the buildings that the author has pictured and written about, in order to see for oneself the majesty of colour that enriches the Oxford scene.

Dominic must be congratulated on his masterpiece, and hopefully there will be many who will be encouraged to buy his book and share his love of these treasures of Oxford.

Michael Churchill (84-16)

## For The Record 2024

### Here are the statistics relating to the 2024 Leavers:

The leaver who was in the school for the longest period of time was Robert WENDEN, who started in Nursery in September 2013.

The longest associated family, having completed 12 years without a break, was the Arnott family. In July we said goodbye to Archie ARNOTT (14-24), whose siblings, Tommy ARNOTT (11 -20) and Poppy ARNOTT (12-22), were also educated at Cheam.

The family whose children’s total number of terms added together came out on top was also the Arnott family, who totalled 87 terms between them. The Smiley family came second with 84 terms: Harry SMILEY (13-19), Jago SMILEY (13-21), Willow SMILEY (13-21) and Poppy SMILEY (14-24).

The family whose links with Cheam went back the furthest was the Bond Gunning family. We said goodbye in the summer to Winston BOND GUNNING (20-24), whose brother, Sebastian BOND GUNNING (18-22), was also at Cheam. Their father, Heyrick BOND GUNNING, was a pupil at Cheam from 1980 to 1984, when Michael Wheeler was Headmaster.

One member of staff, Nick MILBANK, completed 25 years at Cheam in 2024. Nick arrived in 1999 to teach Junior Maths, Science and History.



# News of Staff & Former Pupils



**William PHELPS (22-24)**

William Phelps and his wife, Sophie Green, left Cheam School at the end of August 2024. Although his tenure as Headmaster was a short one, there were several material accomplishments during his time at the school. These included the reformation and modernisation of the school’s Senior Leadership Team structure, the launch of the Cheam Diploma and the formalisation of Character Education within the curriculum, together with improvements to the transparency and equitability of utilisation, appraisal and remuneration practices across the staff room. Sophie was integrally involved in many of these changes, too, alongside her contribution as Clerk to the Governors. We wish them both well for the future.

**Benjy BAILEY (05-14)** graduated from Exeter University as a doctor in the summer of 2024, along with Lucy HUDSON (08-12). Ironically, they were also both in *The Little Shop of Horrors* production at Cheam. Lucy played the lead in the ‘plant’ and was more senior to Benjy, who actually was the ‘plant’. He started his first job as a foundation-year doctor in Truro in August and will be there for two years.

**Jonno BALDING (12-20)** went on tour with the Under 18 England team to play Ireland, France and South Africa in Cape Town in the summer of 2024. Jonno is now captain of the Under 18 Gloucester Academy team.



**Georgia BARTLETT (04-14)** fulfilled a lifetime’s dream by completing her first Badminton Horse Trials and winning the award for the best Under 25-year-old. Badminton is one of only seven five-star events and is widely recognised as having the toughest cross-country track in the world. Georgia at 23 years old was the youngest competitor to complete the cross-country phase clear. Prior to Badminton, Georgia, aboard her long-term partner, Spano de Nazca, known as Nono, represented Great Britain on several occasions at junior level, winning two team silver medals. She has won National Junior Championships and gained top placings at Blenheim Horse Trials for the last two years and at Millstreet in Ireland. Georgia is based at Heatherwold Stud in Burghclere, where she competes, trains and teaches.

**John BURNIE (71-73, 76-80)** visited Cheam during the year, remarking that it was many years since he had last visited, and he was glad to see the community thriving.

**Lyudmila CARTER (05-24)** has left the Pre-Prep after 19 years as a Teaching Assistant.

**Henry de RENZY-MARTIN (92-97)** and his wife Lucy have a third child, a son named Angus Alexander Denny, born on 1 February 2024 at Haywards Heath in Sussex. He is a brother for George and Matilda, and another grandchild for **Philippe de RENZY-MARTIN (61-66)**.

**Alexandra FAIRMAN (20-24)** has left Cheam after four years as the Headmaster’s Secretary.

**Tom HAIGH (00-23)** left Cheam after 23 years at the school. His career at Cheam was an impressive one. He was initially appointed Head of French and a Year 5 form teacher but soon showed that he was capable of greater responsibilities, becoming in time Assistant Headmaster and Deputy Headmaster, a role which saw him as Acting Head for two terms. This role was far from easy as many Covid restrictions were still in place, but Tom coped admirably and gained a huge amount of respect from everybody. At different moments he was also in charge of Year 8, ran a series of holidays for Year 8 children in the Pyrenees, coached the 1st XI football and enjoyed taking girls for rounders in the summer.



**Cameron HENLEY (98-04)** married Amy Long in Sitges, Spain, on 13 May 2023. One of his ushers was Rob FURNESS (98-04). On 9 September 2024 Amy gave birth to their first child, a son called Rudie Ives Ansell Henley. They are living in Bristol, and Cameron works in the food industry.

**Georgina HENLEY (99-06)** married Robbie (Robert) Morgan on 2 September 2023 in Highclere Church. Georgie’s Maid of Honour was Harriet LOWE (00-06). Georgie is currently working for Tech UK in London, but she and her husband are planning a move to Buckinghamshire.

**James HYATT (16-22)** had a great cricket season, playing for the Harrow Under 15s as wicket-keeper and batting at 5 or 6. His team won the England ECB U15 Nationals.



**Jocelyn HARTLAND-SWANN (57-62)** has written as follows: “As the former scorer and therefore self-appointed custodian of historical records, I’ve managed to find annotated copies of the team photos for the Cheam School 1st cricket XI in 1961 and 1962.



**Cheam School 1st XI 1961** (left to right from the back): Jocelyn Hartland-Swann, Prince Charles (57-62), Piers Lloyd-Owen (58-63), David Daukes (56-61), Charles Donald (56-62), Rupert Browne (56-61), Richard Russell (coach 59-65), John Gibbs (57-62), Colin Murray (57-61), William Graham (56-61), Richard Gartside (56-61), Kevin McComas (56-61) and Philip Thomas (57-62).



**Cheam School 1st XI 1962** (left to right from the back): Richard Russell (coach), Hugh Gammell (58-63), Gerald Kidd (59-63), Christopher Austin (57-63), Tim Macfarlane (58-63), Jasper Edrich (58-63), Jocelyn Hartland-Swann, Robert Swannell (62-64), Robert de Sausmarez (58-63), Richard Melville (58-62), Philip Thomas, Piers Lloyd-Owen and Nigel Colebrook (58-64).

**Harry (17-24)** and **Cara JENNINGS** have had a baby boy called Gilbert, born on 12 June 2024, a brother for Roger. Harry left Cheam in July and is now teaching at Cottesmore School, West Sussex.



**Dorothea PEASE (99-06)** recently got engaged (and will be getting married in 2025) to Hugh Carrow, whose sisters were both at Cheam.

**Sybilla PEASE (99-07)** married Kyri Pittalis in Inverness-shire on 4 May 2024. Both her sisters, Dorothea and Carola (00-09), were bridesmaids, and lots of Cheam friends were there from her year.

**Dominic PRICE (79-84)** has produced a book, *The Stained Glass & Chapels of Oxford*, which runs to nearly 200 pages, with hundreds of colour photographs, and is probably the most comprehensive work on that subject (please see page 15).

**Cordelia REEVE (08-16)** had a happy time at Downe House and then enjoyed a gap year working for Jenna Burlingham in her Kingsclere gallery. After that, she travelled around SE Asia and India. She has now started at Exeter University, studying History of Art, and is planning on living with three Cheam alumni in her second year – Rebecca Nicholson, William Jones and James MacFadyen.

**Michael SHAUGHNESSY (13-24)** is now teaching at Crosfields School in Reading, after spending 11 years at Cheam. He arrived at Cheam fresh out of university and soon found himself doing maternity cover for Carrie WOOD (06-) and Geraldine ELLIS (05-18), teaching Science and Maths respectively. Mark JOHNSON (98-16) then decided to keep him on, and in 2016 he passed his PGCE in Maths. He was a form tutor in Year 7 for nine years and Head of Year 7 for the last five years. In sport his passion was football, in which he coached the 1st XI for five years, including an unbeaten season. He says his highlights at Cheam included French trips, leavers’ camps, football tours, CPC camp-outs and staff pantomimes.



**Matt SMALL (04-24)** left Cheam in July 2024, having arrived originally to take up an appointment as the boys’ boarding housemaster. Together with his wife Nicola, they ran a smooth ‘ship’ upstairs and oversaw several boarders’ parties over the years, of which A Day at the Races was possibly the most successful. In the classroom Matt taught Maths and was Head of Department for a time, and on the games field he coached girls’ hockey.





News of Staff & Former Pupils



**Martin THOMAS (54-59)** has written about some aspects of his life at Cheam and afterwards:

“The 70th anniversary of my arrival at Cheam in 1954 has passed. I was a contemporary of Prince Charles, now King Charles III. Even in those early schoolboy days he was clearly intelligent, thoughtful and kind. The prince had a detective minder called, as I remember, Somerville. We little boys annoyed him immensely by constantly asking if he had a gun. At the first royal visit, Prince Philip separated himself from the royal party and prowled round the school alone. He came across me in a dormitory looking for some shoes. For a while he grilled me about the school routine, the lessons, the food and the masters. I believe he learnt more in that short time from an anxious and apprehensive young boy than in all his chats with the staff.

Peter Beck and Mark Wheeler were joint headmasters until the latter retired. In my early days the mysteries of Latin and Religious Studies were revealed by Miss Cowlshaw, and Mr Pearson then took the Latin forward as far as Gaul. Mr Galbraith taught me History so well that he entered me into the Townsend-Warner History Prize, the first Cheam boy to do so.

The celebrated Colonel Shipway taught English, Geography and rugby. His eclectic Saturday evening winter lectures informed us about fighting on the North-West Frontier, the workings of the internal combustion engine, the principle of Archimedes and much more. Mr Munir tried to instil in me some arithmetical figures. The wonderful Jack Malden took us on country walks and shared with us his love of the countryside. It was not Mr Penhale’s fault that my card table collapsed!

We had set times to go to the loo – mine was 8.05, which has been a special time for me ever since. When one reported ‘successful, sir’, a tick went against your name. On answering ‘not successful, sir’, one was sent to Miss Jack, the Matron, who administered a brown concoction. The trick was always to claim success whatever the outcome.

On Sundays we used to walk in crocodile fashion to St Peter’s Church, Headley. Once back at school, everyone wrote a letter home. On one occasion the Royal Family attended the service in the tiny church. I was in the choir, and Miss Mann had prepared us to sing *I Know that my Redeemer Liveth* from Handel’s *Messiah*. I think the Queen just about recognised it! That aria would certainly be one of my Desert Island discs.

I left Cheam for Sherborne, although it was the superb teaching at Cheam that allowed me to pass English and Latin O Levels. After medical school at St Thomas’, I pursued a career in surgery. The two women in my life, my wife Vivien and daughter Olivia, are both anaesthetists.

My main interest outside surgery has been sailing, and many nautical miles have flowed under my keel. I served as the Commodore of the Royal London Yacht Club in Cowes and of the Ocean Cruising Club, a global organisation to help the amateur long-distance sailor. One of my maritime adventures was to sail the Southern Ocean to South Georgia, where I crossed the mountain range and so followed in the footsteps of Shackleton. My book, *Heavy Weather Sailing*, was published in 2022, and *Reeds First Aid Handbook*, which I wrote with my daughter, came out in early 2024.



I have no doubt that my early time at Cheam built a firm foundation for later life. Cheam provided the education and instilled the attitudes and values that allowed me a productive and balanced life in surgery and sailing.”

**Lars-Jacob VON KNORRING (79-80)** married Diep Axelsson on 22 July 2024.



**Harry WOOLLEY (93-98)** and his wife, Hannah, have had a baby boy, Frederick George, born on 25 November 2023.

News of the 2018 Leavers

Here is an update on most of the 2018 leavers, who left Cheam in July 2018.

**Charlie BEDFORD (09-18)** loved his time at Sherborne School and then travelled around Asia with a couple of friends, before heading for Newcastle University.

**Harry BEDFORD (09-18)** left Sherborne School in 2023 and then travelled in New Zealand and played rugby in Australia. He is now at Exeter University.

**Imogen BENSON (08-18)** enjoyed five great years at Pangbourne College, before spending her gap year volunteering at Restart Africa in Kenya, which rehomes Kenya’s street children. She then travelled around Vietnam and Thailand, bumping into several Cheam friends along the way. She is still a passionate equestrian and is keen to start playing hockey again at Bath University, where she is studying Criminology.

**Araminta BINGLEY (10-18)** left Bradfield College after taking Biology, Chemistry and Business Studies at A-Level. She then had a gap year, during which she travelled in the Philippines, New Zealand and Japan. She also enjoyed some climbing and cycling. She is now at Sussex University, reading Psychology and Clinical Approaches, and is playing rugby for the university.

**Jake BOYD (16-18).** On leaving Cheam, Jake returned to Singapore and spent the next five years at Tanglin Trust School. He is now reading Economics at Bath University, having had a brilliant gap year. He worked in a pub in London and then did a Christmas stint at Fortnum & Mason, before heading off to travel around South America for four months with two friends. From there, he headed to Japan to climb Mt Fuji, which he did in the pouring rain!

**Nina BRANDLER (13-18)** is in her second year at the London School of Economics, reading International Relations and History.

**Christopher BRONKS (08-18).** After leaving Eton College, Christopher travelled around Thailand, Vietnam and Cambodia with two school friends, before coming back to put in long hours at Bel & The Dragon in Odiham. While at home, he played cricket for Overton, making it onto their 2023 and 2024 Honours

board for taking five wickets in a match! He then joined the weekly commuters to London with an internship at Hybr, a tech start-up facilitating student accommodation, and has now started his BSc at Durham University, reading Climate Sciences.

**Charlotte CAME (13-18).** During her gap year Charlotte visited South Africa and worked for a wedding event company in Bali. She opted not to go to university and is now working.

**Georgia CARWARDINE (07-18)** is at Warwick University, reading Classics.

**Ella CLEGG (08-18)** worked at the Dundas Arms in Kintbury, before heading to Australia in November 2023. She travelled up the east coast and then went to Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia and Bali. She spent the rest of the 2024 summer on the Isle of Wight, teaching sailing and working as a chef. She is now at Oxford Brookes, studying Marketing and Events Management, and is still in contact with a number of Cheam friends.

**Hector COPCUTT (12-18)** did not have a gap year after Radley College and is in his second year at Exeter University, studying International Relations. His holiday travels have included visits to Ukraine and Vietnam.

**Barney COURAGE (15-18)** enjoyed five years at Winchester College and then had a gap year, during which he worked as a gap student at Witham Hall Prep School, Lincolnshire, before travelling for six months around Australia and New Zealand. He is due to start at Newcastle University, reading Biology, in October 2025. In the meantime, he is working for Virgin Atlantic.

**Jemima D’ARCY (09-18)** is at Exeter University.

**Lara DAVIDSON (12-18)** is at Exeter University, studying Communications, Marketing and Media.

**Elodie DAVIES (13-18)** left Downe House in July 2023 and then spent four months as a gap student at Cheam, before travelling in Australia and SE Asia with a group of friends. She is now at Exeter University, studying Business and Management, and will be living with two other Cheam friends next year.

**Max DEL MAR (13-18)** enjoyed five great years at Marlborough College. In his gap year he did a ski instructor course and travelled around South America, and he is now studying Engineering at Durham University.

**Axel du PLESSIS (12-18)** is at Exeter University.

**Annabelle EDGINGTON (15-18)** left St Mary’s School, Calne, in 2023 and then worked as a gapper at Glendower Prep School in London, before travelling around SE Asia with friends and volunteering and travelling in Kenya. She is now at Newcastle University, studying Sociology.

**Tilly EDWARDS (10-18).** After leaving Bradfield College in 2023, Tilly worked in London for three months, before travelling in Australia and SE Asia. She is now at Exeter University, studying Sociology.

**Leila FITZSIMMONS (16-18)** enjoyed her five years at Marlborough College. After this she gained some employment in London, working in the luxury goods industry, before embarking on her travels around SE Asia and Australia. She is currently at Edinburgh University, studying History and French and loving every minute of it.

**Johnny GORDON CLARK (12-18)** has just started at IE University in Segovia (Madrid), doing a four-year course in Business Administration. Prior to that he had a gap year, during which he lived in London and worked at Ekistics Property, before travelling around South America with friends. When he got back, he moved to Portugal with his parents.

**Ivo GRAY (08-18)** had five happy years at Radley College. He then travelled around SE Asia, before heading to Exeter University, where he is studying Politics & Philosophy.



# News of the 2018 Leavers

**Henry GREY (08-18)** is at Durham University, studying Religion, Society and Culture.

**FREDDIE HALL (13-18)** is at Oxford Brookes, studying Finance.

**Allegra HANNAN (13-18)** had a wonderful time at Marlborough College, where she spent a lot of her time playing the violin and even discovered lacrosse. She funded her gap year travels by teaching music and serving Cheam mums in Bel & The Dragon. She and a friend then travelled for three months in South America. Next, she worked in Spain for two months as an au pair, joined a Spanish youth orchestra, went to France and even squeezed in an inter-railing adventure, before taking her place at St Peter's College, Oxford, to read Music. We have just heard the news that St Peter's College has awarded her an instrumental scholarship. Congratulations!

**Ralph HARGREAVES (13-18)** left Magdalen College School, Oxford, in 2023 and is now at Durham University, reading English Literature. Before that he took a gap year and gained new skills and experiences with lots of one-off jobs supplied by the Cheam Mumsnet. This found him tutoring GCSE pupils, dog and babysitting, helping at parties, gardening, and generally meeting a lot of lovely Cheam families. Having trained with the Woodspen team, he then went on to be involved in the setting up of The Boxford and worked there for three months. All this work allowed him to take three months off with Louis Potts to visit SE Asia. They travelled to Thailand, Bangkok, Laos, Cambodia and Malaysia. On their travels they met Imogen Wiggin in a bar in Laos, and they were at a full-moon party in Thailand with Rebecca Nicholson, though with 20,000 revellers there, they somehow missed each other!

**Max HARRIS (08-18)** completed his IB course at Bradfield College, which he really enjoyed. He is now in his second year at Loughborough University, studying for a degree in Sports Management. He had a great summer in Sydney, getting work experience at Killara Golf Club and playing a few rounds. He is looking forward to his placement year in the sports industry next year.

**William HASTIE (10-18)**. After leaving Eton College, William went inter-railing during the summer of 2023. He is now in his second year at St Andrew's University, studying Art History and Italian, having spent much of the 2024 summer in Rome.

**Sophie HERRMANN (09-18)** was in the clay-pigeon shooting team at Cheam and continued to shoot competitively for Marlborough College throughout her time there. In 2022 she won the Junior Ladies World Championship in Olympic Skeet and then travelled the world during her gap year, shooting for GB. She is now at Durham University with some other friends from Cheam, studying Economics, History and German for a Liberal Arts degree.

**William JONES (13-18)** is reading Engineering at Exeter University. After five happy years at Eton College, he took a gap year, during which he worked in a bar in Cornwall and a local warehouse, before qualifying as a ski instructor in Verbier, Switzerland.

**Alex KLOSTERFELDE (16-18)** gained his RYA Skippers licence while he was in the sixth form at Canford School and is now heading off to Royal Holloway (University of London) to do a four-year MSc Finance course.

**Henry KNIGHT (12-18)** had a gap year, which he started by working at a school in Kenya for two months. Later he travelled around Australia and visited Thailand. He returned home in May and later worked in a London pub. He is now at Cardiff University, studying History.

**Hermione LONGFIELD (13-18)**. After leaving Marlborough College, Hermione set off on a gap year, visiting, among other countries, New Zealand, India and Thailand. She is now studying International Relations at Durham University.

**James MACFADYEN (13-18)**. Having left Marlborough College, James started on a gap year. In January he completed a ski instructor course and spent a ski season in Whistler, returning to the UK in April and then setting off for SE Asia. He is now at Exeter University, studying Sport and Exercise Science.

**Tallulah MACKENZIE SMITH (13-18)** is at Exeter University, reading Sociology and Management. During her gap year she travelled around New Zealand and Australia and was also involved in horse competitions in Europe.

**Lara MARSH (13-18)** left St Mary's School, Calne, in July 2023. She continued with her eventing and then headed for New Zealand with Tallulah Mackenzie Smith and another friend. They continued their travelling in Australia, where Lara went to work for Twin Hills Stud in Cootamundra, New South Wales. This took her into the New Year, when she headed to Kenya and worked for Offbeat Safaris. She returned home in April to continue eventing during the summer, the highlight of which was to compete successfully at Blair, Perthshire. She also obtained her HGV licence. She is now at Exeter University, studying Liberal Arts with History of Art and Anthropology as her majors. She has also joined the OTC, which she is really enjoying.

**Flora MAY 09-18)** left Marlborough College in 2023 and took a year out, working at Garden House School and then travelling with friends. She is now in her first year at Bristol University, studying International Business with Italian, and loves it.

**Thomas McGONNELL (12-18)** is at Swansea University, reading Applied Medical Sciences and loving it. He is playing a lot of sport and has been on a recent ski trip.

**Tom McPHAIL (08-18)** spent part of his gap year travelling around Europe and is now at Manchester University, studying Business Management.

**Hugo MILES (13-18)** left Radley College in the summer of 2023 and then spent three months working at Trevose Golf Club, before travelling around Australia and SE Asia. He is now at Exeter University, studying Economics, and has been re-united with many old Cheam friends.

**Freddie MILLER (13-18)** is at Leeds University, studying for a BA in Geography.

**Patrick MORAN (11-18)** was at Bryanston School for five fabulous years. He excelled on the rugby pitch and captained Dorset & Wilts at the Under 17 and Under 18 age groups.

During his year off he worked at Harrods and Ocado to save pennies for his travels. Two months were spent working for a charity organisation in Kenya, and, after a brief stint back home, he departed for adventures in SE Asia. He is currently at Oxford Brookes, studying at the School of the Built Environment.

**Rebecca NICHOLSON (09-18)** spent five happy years at St Mary's School, Calne. At the start of her gap year, she inter-railed for two months and then returned to the UK to work in London in the retail sector to help fund the rest of her travels. In January 2024, she travelled to Mumbai, doing volunteering work for the Oscar Foundation for five weeks. From Mumbai she travelled to Goa, and from there she went on to Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam and Bali, returning to the UK at the end of May very tanned and with wonderful stories of her adventures. She is now at Exeter University, reading Sociology.

**Louis POTTS (13-18)** is at Exeter University, reading Biochemistry. He spent part of a gap year visiting the Far East and took an interest in surfing.

**Jago PREST (10-18)** enjoyed three years at Bradfield College, before taking his A-Levels at Peter Symonds College in Winchester. After a year off, which included three months travelling with friends in Australia and SE Asia, he is now at Oxford Brookes, studying Real Estate.

**Sophia RUSSELL (09-18)**. During her gap year Sophia did some inter-railing around Europe and some backpacking in Japan and Thailand. She spent most of the year working at Ballymaloe House Hotel in County Cork. She has decided to stay on at the hotel, as they are sponsoring her to do a Hotel Management degree course, and she is currently being trained as a sommelier in their famous restaurant.

**Jacob SHEPHERD (08-18)** is at Loughborough University, reading Physics. He had a gap year, spending part of it travelling around Europe.

**Catherine SKIPWORTH (07-18)**. After leaving Downe House, Catherine took a gap year, during which she spent the summer and autumn working in a local pub and obtaining her private pilot licence. Over the winter she then completed her BASI Level 2

ski instructor course in Verbier, where she bumped into a number of Cheam friends. After a month at home, Catherine went out to volunteer in Costa Rica, before travelling through Nicaragua, Chile, Bolivia and Peru. She finished her gap year by taking a road trip from Venice to the Paris Olympics with Sophie Herrmann, and she is now enjoying life as a student at Bristol University, studying Biomedical Sciences.

**Caspar STEPHENSON (13-18)** is at Exeter University, reading Business Studies. During his gap year he worked at the Sangster Stables at Manton and then travelled in the Far East.

**Archie THOMPSON (08-18)** decided not to go to university but instead pursue a career in Aerospace and Defence manufacturing.

**Hugo THOMPSON (08-18)** opted out of university to run his own company, HugoFox, a web-based platform for creating community websites.

**Joshua UMEH (17-18)** enjoyed Marlborough College, where he was in C1, and then went to Reading University to study Economics. He later applied for an internship.

**Imogen WIGGIN (12-18)**. After five happy years at Bradfield College, Imogen worked at Garden House School and then travelled around SE Asia. She is now at Exeter University, reading English with History of Art.

**Alex WINTON (08-18)** is in his second year at Warwick University, reading Sociology. He will be spending the third year of his course in Paris.

**Angus WOLRIGE GORDON (08-18)** is in his second year at Manchester University, reading English. In the summer he took part in a play at a fringe event at the Edinburgh Festival. Recently he was pleased to receive an academic prize – the John Jump Award for the best undergraduate performance in English at the university.

**Isabel WORTHINGTON (09-18)** had five happy years at St Mary's School, Ascot, and is now in her second year at Edinburgh University, reading History of Art. She has made the most of the long holidays by working and travelling, most recently last summer around Thailand and Indonesia with Imogen Wiggin, where they met up with many Cheam friends.



Sophie Herrmann



# We Shall Remember Them

**Christopher John Kent BULSTRODE  
1951-2023 (Cheam 59-63)**

Christopher Bulstrode was born on 5 January 1951 in Guernsey. After Cheam he was educated at Radley College. His academic pursuits began with a strong interest in zoology, leading him to study under Nobel Laureate, Konrad Lorenz, in Bavaria. This experience prompted a temporary shift from medicine to zoology at Oxford, where he led student expeditions. He later returned to medicine, completing his education at Cambridge and again at Oxford.

Christopher’s medical career began in Africa, where he worked in refugee camps and as a lecturer in veterinary pathology. Later he returned to the UK and changed his specialisation to trauma and orthopaedics. He was known for his outspoken views on medical ethics and reform, particularly advocating the rights of junior doctors and criticising established medical practices. Christopher’s later career included service as a trauma surgeon in the British Army, despite initial age-related challenges. His deployment to Afghanistan was a notable period, when he contributed to healthcare restructuring and worked in refugee camps. His post-military career involved emergency medicine in New Zealand and contributions to Doctors of the World. His service was recognised in 2016 when he was appointed CBE.

Christopher died of a progressive neuro-degenerative disorder on 7 December 2023, but before he died, he managed to complete his autobiography. A memorial service was held at Magdalen College, Oxford.

**Patrick Thomas CORMACK, Baron Cormack  
1939-2024 (Cheam Governor 84-93)**

Patrick Cormack, Baron Cormack, DL, FSA, FRHistS (18 May 1939-25 February 2024) was a British politician, historian, journalist and author. He served as a Member of Parliament for 40 years, from 1970 to 2010. He was a member of the Conservative Party and was seen as a one-nation conservative.

Before entering Parliament, Patrick was a teacher. He became MP for Cannock at the 1970 general election, and following boundary changes he was elected to represent the constituency of South-West Staffordshire in 1974, which was renamed South Staffordshire in 1983. He was elected chair of the Northern Ireland Affairs Select Committee in 2005. He was also twice a candidate for the speakership of the House of Commons. After standing down from the House of Commons in 2010, he served as an active life peer in the House of Lords.

Patrick took an active interest in historical issues, particularly those related to English Heritage. He was also a knowledgeable parliamentary historian and wrote many books on subjects including the history of Parliament, British castles, English cathedrals and William Wilberforce. For much of his parliamentary life he was a trustee of the Churches Preservation Trust, a council member of British Archaeology and a liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Glaziers and Painters of Glass. From 1983 to 1993 he was a trustee of the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust, as well as a consultant and adviser to FIRST, an international affairs organization, from 1985. He was also a rector’s warden at Parliament’s parish church, St Margaret’s in Westminster, from 1978 to 1990. He was a long-standing Vice-President of the National Churches Trust and President of the Prayer Book Society for many years. He was a Governor of Cheam School from 1984 to 1993, and was responsible for arranging two visits to the school in the 1980s by George Thomas, Speaker of the House of Commons, later Lord Tonypany.

Patrick married Kathleen Mary MacDonald in 1967. They had two sons, Charles (78-83) and Richard (80-85).



**David Frank Campbell REYNOLDS  
1936-2023 (Cheam 88-09)**

David Reynolds was born in Nottingham. After leaving grammar school at the age of 16, he became apprenticed to a company of pipe-organ builders. Then followed National Service, during which he spent two years in the RAF as a medic. On leaving the RAF in May 1957, David became organist and choirmaster at St Mary’s Church, Wollaton Park, Nottingham. It was here that he met his wife Christine. After they married, he studied music for three years at Nottingham University Teacher Training College. Following his graduation, they left Nottingham for Andover in Hampshire, where David took up his first teaching post, at the same time becoming organist and choirmaster in Whitchurch. Their next move was to Newbury, where David became Head of Music at Shaw House School and organist and choirmaster at Newbury Parish Church. One of David’s ambitions was to create a garden railway for his gauge-1 steam engines, and as a model engineer he was able to do this in his garden in Newbury. He spent many hours happily absorbed in his railway, even occasionally forgetting to come in for meals!

Then came Cheam School, where David became Director of Music and enjoyed 21 of the happiest, most fulfilling and successful years of his teaching career. In 2009, David and Christine moved to the South Hams in Devon to live next to the farmhouse where their son Jonathan lived. Here David spent ten years creating his railway on a flat field next to their home, taking his engines to the Buckfastleigh Garden Railway Group, walking their black labradors in the fields and on the beaches, playing the organ at Modbury and Bigbury, and accompanying the fine choir Ecclesia on the organ. He also enjoyed sitting on the terrace at Salcombe Yacht Club, watching the family racing and enjoying his grandchildren.

In 2020 he moved into Ermington House, a care home in the beautiful valley of the river Erme, where he and Christine would sit in the grounds during summer days, watching the Belted Galloway cattle in the fields, drinking coffee and just enjoying being together, or sitting in the window of his room, looking over the same beautiful view, where she would read to him or they would listen to Classic FM. He loved the wonderful carers there, and they loved him.

Richard Moore (69-08) writes: “David was appointed Director of Music at Cheam School in September 1988. Moving from the state sector to an independent prep school, he embraced his new role involving longer hours and weekend involvement with energy and enthusiasm, encouraging the boys to develop their musical talents in every way possible. He increased the number and variety of anthems that the Choir sang in Chapel and introduced a more challenging repertoire. He expanded the quantity and quality of instrumental music in the school, forming brass, woodwind and string groups, and enabling boys to perform pieces in informal concerts, several of which would take place through the course of the year. This improved their confidence no end and undoubtedly bolstered the Associated Board exam results.

David was always looking for opportunities for the Cheam Choir to perform away from Cheam, be it at choral evensongs in some of the surrounding villages, the annual Advent carol service at Whitchurch or the schools’ carol service in Newbury Parish Church. He was a great fan of the Covent Garden Schools’ Matinée Scheme, enabling school parties to experience world-class performances of opera and ballet at a fraction of the cost. He also undertook some one-to-one teaching on the piano and organ.

After six years at the helm, David was succeeded as Director of Music in 1994 by Paul Dowbekin, but he stayed on at Cheam for a further 15 years as a piano teacher, accompanist and organist, as well as carrying out the thankless task of tuning all the pianos at the beginning of every term. David’s contribution to Cheam music over a period of 21 years was profound, and the school owes him an enormous debt of gratitude for all that he achieved and for the budding young musicians that he inspired during the time that he was there.”

We send our sympathy to Christine, Jonathan and James.

**Bernard Hugh SIMPSON  
1958-2023 (Cheam 66-71)**

Bernard Simpson was born in 1958 and later followed his brother, John (61-66), to Cheam. After Cheam they both went to Harrow School. Having left school, Bernard took over the family farm, Hyde Farm, in Ecchinswell, which also became his first marital home when he married Chloe Sykes. They had two sons, Hugh (91-96) and Robert (93-99), who were also educated at Cheam and Harrow. While at Hyde Farm, he started breeding racehorses. This continued when they later lived in Gloucestershire and Wiltshire. He also took up photography, a hobby that became useful in his equestrian career and also after he and Chloe moved to Norfolk, where he involved himself in Agricultural Drone Mapping on several local farms. Bernard died on 12th July 2023, aged 65.

**We have also heard of the following deaths:**

**January 2024**

Anne Marie Travis  
mother of Toby (87-92)

**April 2024**

Sarah Gouriet  
mother of James (74-79), Michael (76-80)  
and Rupert (77-82)

**June 2024**

Sarah Karsten  
mother of Charles (00-08), Toto (00-10)  
and Amelia (03-12)

Jemma Elizabeth Perkins  
mother of Joshua (04-09), Luke (05-10) and  
Anna (07-14)

Joanna Hodgskin  
mother of Thomas (02-11) and James (03-13)

## Chris and Penny Evers’s Memorial Service

Over a hundred people assembled in the Chapel at Cheam on Saturday 24th February for a memorial service to honour and celebrate the lives of Chris and Penny Evers, whose deaths had occurred within six months of each other in 2023. The service contained a well-balanced mixture of words and music, which began with the first of three hymns after the Headmaster, Will Phelps, had welcomed everybody to the school. Richard Moore, Senior Master during the Evers era, read a poem called *The Dash* by Linda Ellis, and Meme Shorten, who was on the board of Governors for almost the entirety of Chris’s time at Cheam, read one of Chris and Penny’s favourite poems, *Us Two* by A.A.Milne. Sandwiched between these two items came an on-screen tribute from Jerome Griffin, whom Chris had appointed to the staff in 1991. He was speaking from his home in Perth, Western Australia, and with frequent touches of humour highlighted many of the reasons for Chris’s successful headship. It was then the turn of Sophie, Chris and Penny’s daughter, to deliver a moving and at times amusing eulogy to her parents. A few prayers followed, led by Sarah Maitland and Sylvia Haymes, before the spoken part of the service concluded with short contributions from the Headmaster and his wife. On the musical front, the Chapel Choir sang an anthem, *The Lord is my Salvation* by Keith and Kristyn Getty, with great conviction, while Tim Bennett, the Director of Music, and Janet Coxwell, Head of Choral, combined beautifully in a performance of César Franck’s *Panis Angelicus*. After the service, everyone headed for the Pre-Prep Hall in the Duke of Edinburgh Building, where parents, staff and alumni exchanged memories of Chris and Penny’s time at Cheam. Despite the inherent sadness of the occasion, it was also a moment to remember all that they had achieved between 1985 and 1998, during which time Chris laid the foundations for the successful school that Cheam is today by introducing day-boys, making the school co-educational and arranging the merger with Inhurst House School that provided a ready-made Pre-Prep and Nursery. Cheam has a great deal to thank Chris and Penny for.

Richard Moore (69-08)



# The Year 8 Leavers 2024



## The following scholarships were gained at public schools:

Florence Balding  
Marlborough College  
Sport Scholarship

Martha Butler  
Marlborough College  
Sport Scholarship

Sophia Heidl  
St Mary's School, Ascot  
Sport Scholarship

Dylan Hooper  
Sherborne School  
Design & Technology  
Scholarship

Jack Hudson  
Cheltenham College  
Drama Scholarship

Charles Hutton  
Radley College  
Sport Scholarship

Amelie O'Keefe  
St Edward's School, Oxford  
Drama Scholarship

Veronica Owings  
Stowe School  
Sport and Music Scholarships

Jonty Shelley  
Abingdon School  
Design & Technology  
Scholarship

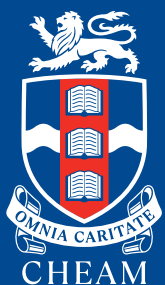
Aurelia Smith  
Pangbourne College  
Sport Scholarship

Claudia Thompson  
Sherborne Girls'  
Drama Scholarship

Camilla Voute  
Marlborough College  
Sport Scholarship

## In addition, the following Year 8 children left Cheam for their future schools:

Ebenezer Adesina	Marlborough
Archie Arnott	Eton
Jasper Bandy	Pangbourne
Isabella Barratt-Campbell	Wellington
George Bassett Cross	Radley
Felix Bearman	Radley
Winston Bond Gunning	Epsom
Isla Brooks	Wellington
Athena Dunn	Wellington
Oliver Elwes	Stowe
Hugo Fellows	Winchester
William Fidgen	Sherborne
Cleo Fitzsimmons	Marlborough
Charles Forsyth	Marlborough
Walter Foster	Marlborough
Ophelia Geddes	Wellington
Charles Gerring	Wellington
Bunny Grimaldi-Adams	Wellington
Abigail Kehoe	Downe House
Barnaby Marsh	Winchester
Flora McGivern	Bradfield
Scarlet Monot	Bradfield
Archie Nesbit	Radley
Rufus Oliver	Winchester
Hugo O'Rourke	Sherborne
Bertie Petre	Sherborne
Scarlett Rees	Bradfield
Edward Rutherford	Radley
Poppy Smiley	Marlborough
Martha Stanes	Wellington
Thomas Stone	Radley
Alexa Sugden	Wellington
Freddie Symington	Winchester
Taisiia Tarasova	Pangbourne
Alfred Wander	Oundle
Lucas Webster	Winchester
Robert Wenden	Winchester
Freya Wilcox	Marlborough
Archie Young	Sherborne
Nancy Young	Wellington



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