



# Prince Philip remembered

We reflect on how The Duke of  
Edinburgh has inspired the College

King's Gold Medal 1936  
returns to Pangbourne

The Falklands  
40 years on

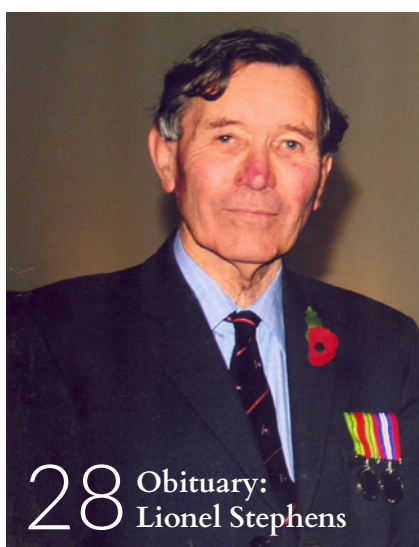
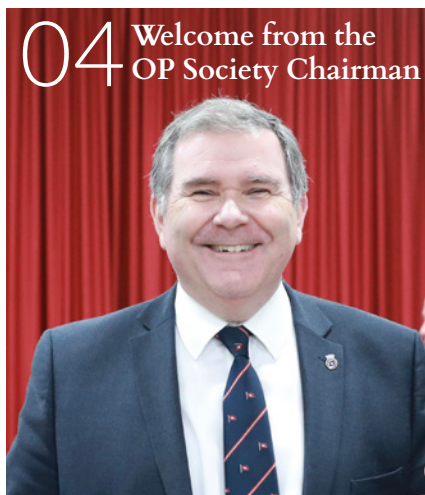
Peter Politzer  
A titan who touched  
the lives of so many

Lionel Stephens  
The anchor of the  
Pangbourne ship





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# Welcome from the OP Society



In January, we sat down with Phillip Plato (H 73-77) to reflect on the past year for the OP Society. Highlights of the interview are available to read below, with the full video interview available for those reading the digital version of this magazine, or on the Pangbournian Portal.

**You have recently completed your first year as Chairman, how has that year been for the OP Society?**

Like many it has not been easy. Many of our normal events were unable to take place with meetings only able to be conducted virtually. However, I have been surprised at what has been achieved despite these difficulties and I think this is testament to the spirit of Pangbournians.

The pandemic gave the Society the opportunity to undertake some important housekeeping and reflect on its aims and purpose. Our

online survey generated almost 800 responses which helped identify what OP's want from the Society. Accordingly, we have now modernised the Rules of the Society, and I am optimistic that several sports and social groups will be re-established including Hockey, Cricket & Rowing as well as a B2B group and a Car & Motorcycle Club.

Most importantly we have created a new OP website called the Pangbournian Portal which offers much more functionality than the former versions ever could.

**Are you pleased with the new Pangbournian Portal, and can you highlight what it can do that is an improvement on the old website?**

First I should say that it is still very much a 'work in progress' and we have a number of important things still to refine but yes, I am pleased and most grateful to the College for funding this facility.



# Chairman

Obviously its key purpose is to convey news about OPs and to keep them in touch with each other but we can now invite OPs to reserve event tickets online. This is important as previously event organisers had to process payments privately and account for any surplus afterwards.

Likewise, we can now sell merchandise online which we could never do before, and we are therefore expanding the range of OP merchandise which now includes things like lapel pins, badges and wall plaques.

But for me the most important thing is that we can offer all Sports and Social groups their own space on the website where they can administer their own content and interact with their “members” as well as network with other OPs.

I mentioned it is work in progress and I would like to take this opportunity to invite OPs to visit the new site. We currently only have contact details for 2,500 of

7,000 OPs on our database, so I urge every OP to register and tell their peers to do so too!

## **What other things have been going on?**

In the autumn, the OP Society successfully acquired at public auction the unique 1936 Kings Gold Medal. It is the only one bearing the head of King Edward VIII, and as he presented the inaugural Medal on behalf of King George V, it reflects a long association between the College and the Royal Family. The Society is grateful to 30 donors, many of whom were former Chiefs, who crowdfunded, pledging up to £28,000 to enable

its acquisition. The medal will be formally presented to the College at Parade on Sunday 27 February.

In October, the Society organised an event in Portsmouth to commemorate the 40th Anniversary of the Falklands War in which 51 OPs were known to have been involved. The weekend included a tour of the Mary Rose Museum (itself designed by an OP) and dinner in HMS Nelson, but for me the highlight was a presentation from 8 OPs who recited their personal stories of the conflict. These were enthralling, and the Society has created a video which is now available to watch via the new OP website.

Lunch at the Turf Club, London





**I believe an OP has published an important new book too?**

Yes, Robin Knight has published “Leaders” which tells the stories of bravery and courage demonstrated by OPs between 1917 and 2020. Astonishingly this includes 2 George Crosses, 2 George Medals, 31 Distinguished Service Orders, 91 Distinguished Service Crosses, 17 Military Crosses and 18 Distinguished Flying Crosses. Having read Leaders I have never been prouder to be a Pangbournian.

**It seems as though the OP Society has had a busy year despite the pandemic. As Chairman, what do you hope to achieve looking forwards?**

One of the key objectives of the Society is to help maintain the traditions of the College and in that regard, I am keen to promote sailing within the College again. Sailing develops transferable



Messing about on boats with the OPYC

skills for youngsters, creating independence and strategic thinking, and it obviously also points to the nautical traditions of the College. In this respect the Society is proud that for the next three years, Pangbourne is involved in the management of the prestigious Arrow Trophy, an annual sailing competition between alumni of various Independent Schools, raced on the Solent.

Aside from sport, I also want to develop Regional clubs and activities around the UK so that the Society has appeal to those not residing in London and the SE.

I also hope the Society can promote the heritage of the College by helping preserve and digitise the College archives that Lionel Stephens had collated. We aim to catalogue all the College artefacts and memorabilia and to organise their display around campus as well as online. Related to this, we have established a Lionel Stephens Fund to fund the digitisation of College archives and for the creation of a new venue where valuable artefacts can be displayed.

Also, in respect of the College’s heritage, we will soon be launching an initiative to capture oral histories of OPs, in the form of a series of one to one or group interviews with OPs from the same era sharing their recollections.



Introducing the OP Society to Sixth Form Students

**You mentioned that keeping OPs in touch and preserving the traditions of the College were two of the key objectives of the OP Society, are there any others?**

Yes, the other key objective is to support the College wherever it can. In this respect, I hope to establish more regular dialogue with the College and Governors to discuss how the OP Society might better assist by collaborating on fundraising initiatives. I believe that OPs can and should give more to the College.

We already assist pupils by providing careers advice and I hope to extend this to offer opportunities for work experience. The Pangbournian Portal now has areas for OPs in further education to create groups so that they can remain in touch whilst at university.



# Welcome from the Chair of Governors



Patrick Roberts

**I open my first report for the Pangbournian Magazine with a tribute to my predecessor Roger Lane-Nott. Roger was a governor for ten years and Chairman for seven.**

His achievements during these years were varied, including continued growth; the College in 2021 was at its largest in its history, in terms of pupils; and he led a programme, which continues, to renovate campus facilities. His last year was dominated by the pandemic and his guidance was fundamental to the College continuing to provide our pupils with meaningful education at home. The highlight of his tenure as Chairman were the Centenary celebrations in 2017 and specifically the visit by Her Majesty The Queen and His

Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh. This was a very special day and Roger ensured that the College put its best foot forward. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to Roger. Pangbourne is very much in his heart and in his words 'Pangbourne made me'; thank you Roger, you have made Pangbourne what it is today.

The last year has been one of contrasts. The College has continued to provide a full and broad education within the COVID restrictions. This has been far from simple for staff and management as, at times, significant numbers of pupils and staff tested positive and were required to self-isolate. Everyone had to adapt to changes quickly, pragmatically and always with the aim of providing pupils with the best possible education. On behalf of the Governing Body, I thank all staff for their huge efforts during a very challenging year. At the February half-term, there are only a handful of cases and College life has all but

returned to 'normal'. There are two further matters that may be of interest to the OP community. I am pleased to report that we welcomed a large intake to the College in September. This is set against a background of increasing competition from other independent schools. This bodes well for the future and it is this future that is at the front of the minds of the Governing Body. We have also welcomed a number of new members to the Governing Body during the year. We are engaged closely with senior management in the production of a new development plan. This plan will take the College forward in the post COVID world. It is an exciting time and we shall engage with OPs in more detail once we have a clearer understanding of future plans.

I look forward to seeing you at the College, OP events and thank you for your support. Pangbourne continues to be a very special place.





# Welcome from

## **Globally, 2021 was another challenging year, how was it for Pangbourne?**

Like others, it was challenging, but at the same time, a positive year. The most difficult thing were the bubbles, which cut across the atmosphere of the school meaning senior pupils couldn't engage with younger ones, losing the invaluable mentoring which is essential for all pupils. It was only in September that we were able to return to a more 'normal' way of operating and this academic year has felt completely different.

Other challenges involved those periods of lockdown, but staff responded extremely well and students showed commendable degrees of resilience throughout. We don't think learning suffered however competitive sport and activities like music were significantly affected.

## **With pupil numbers and exam results remaining strong, it feels like the College has performed well throughout the pandemic?**

If you can have such a thing, we've had a very good pandemic. Our reputation has been strengthened considerably, in large part due to the effective way in which the teaching and learning was maintained through the lockdowns. Feedback from parents has been incredibly good and I'm really proud of the team and everything they've done during the last twelve months.

In terms of performance, the results themselves were very good. The Cambridge Centre for Evaluation & Monitoring have identified that we are in the top 2% of schools. In terms of university destinations, 89% of pupils achieved their firm choice, including Cambridge, Durham, Edinburgh and Newcastle.

## **Looking ahead, what challenges face the College?**

Well, on the whole, I'm excited about the future. We're uncertain about how the economy will

work out and there are things we are having to adjust to as we get back to normal.

We're in the process of producing a new development plan, to be launched in the Autumn. I'm excited about the process so far and I am enjoying talking to stakeholders including OPs.

The local market is changing substantially with most single-sex schools becoming co-educational over the next few years, so our distinctiveness is something we need to preserve and communicate clearly. It's an exciting time and we have been growing steadily over the last ten years, now at 457 pupils, which is as big as we've ever been, and I'm confident that we can continue to grow.

## **The College's commitment to support and work with the OP Society remains strong, can you comment on developments in this area over the past year?**

I'm always very grateful for the support and interest of OPs. This year, as before, OPs have given generously of their time, volunteering to support

# The Head

the careers program. Also, in material ways, including the refurbishment of the Main Mast last term and towards new rugby facilities on Big Side.

Phillip Plato, as Chairman of the Society, has been fantastic. I'm grateful for his energy and also the review that he's been conducting about the aims of the OP Society and the procedures which they follow.

In order to help us do that, we have launched the Pangbournian Portal, which will enable the College to support the Society much more effectively going



forward. It's very powerful in terms of communications, but also in building communities of interest groups, event management, selling merchandise and much more. What we need now is for OPs to sign up to it so that we can keep in touch more easily.

**You attended the OP Society's Falklands Memorial Weekend in October, how was that experience?**

It was a tremendous event. My thanks go to Robin Paine, with the help of Tony Morrow, for making it happen. I found the event very powerful; both Alex and I really enjoyed the weekend, in particular the Friday session, where eight OPs told their personal stories; it was both visceral and gave an entirely richer perspective of their conflict.

I wasn't the only one, who at the end of the weekend, was struck afresh by the contributions OPs made to that campaign. I went away with a greater conviction than ever of the importance of the emphasis on character

education and leadership that we've always had at the College and which will be a central part of what our plan and ethos going forward.

**As part of the College's celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, you will be hosting a special parade in April. Will you be welcoming OPs to join?**

Yes, we have decided to theme the College Sunday on 24th April as a Platinum Jubilee event, and we're hoping that the community will come together to help celebrate that.

As we did for the Centenary, OPs are invited to march past. It made a powerful impact on the current generation of students, so I'm hoping that OPs who would like to, will come to the College and have a small, but significant part in the parade. The Guest of Honour, is a former Chief of College, Lieutenant Colonel James Greaves, commanding officer of the 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards, so there will be a Pangbournian flavour to it, as well as a Platinum theme.



# Platinum Sunday



## Platinum College Sunday 24 April 2022

As part of the College's celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, Old Pangbournians are invited to join the Parade and March Past.

Those wishing to be part of the Parade are asked to form up by Port Jackson at 10:00 for practice, before the parade at 11:00

For more information please contact the Development Office



# Welcome to the class of 2021



## **Upper sixth form leavers:**

Jake Alexander, Hamish Bamforth, Will Barringer, Alex Bartlett, Dillon Benson, Matilda Beresford, Barnaby Bucknall, Lucia Buric, Jack Burton, Eleanor Burton, Tallulah Rose Butler-Broad, Daniel Carpenter, Edward Carter Keall, Wesley Castelain, Harvey Day, Aleksandar Dekic, Alannah Dunstan, Madison Foxcroft, Claudia Graney, Emily Greenwood, Rosalind Harper, Joseph Hayes, Spencer Hayhow, Roger Hobby, Oliver Howard, Luca Kennedy, Isabella Kent, Maisie King, Georgia Kingston Paterson, Natasha Lethbridge-Freeman, Laurence Livesey, Junwen Lu, Henry March, Charles McLaren, Daniel McMeekin, Andrew Mullins, India Nall, Daisy Naylor, Rory Norgate, Alexander Ormerod, Georgia Paine, Lillie Pitchforth, Oliver Poole, Alexander Price, Laila Ramsden, Josh Relf, Oliver Sawbridge, Calum Scott, Samuel Shepherd, Grace Spalton, Matthew Stanley, Joe Stickland, Jocasta Symons, Elise Szala, Ying Tao, Lara Thomas, Nicholas Vousden, Oliver Walker, Zihao Wang, Emma Woodrow, Nell Woollen, Poppy Wright, William Yang

## **Honorary OPs:**

Carolyn Edwards, Richard Follett, Dawn Grehan, Samantha Greenwood, Anne Huddart, Neil Jeffers, Rafal Marcinkiewicz, Susan Newport, Dr Matilda Oppenheimer, Ian Osbon, Dan Paynter, Nikki Roberts, Mark Skidmore, Neil Walne, Patricia West

## **Departing Staff:**

Amanda Bowden, Dan Colquhoun, Alex Corps, Matthew Eagers, Carolyn Edwards, Colin Hearn, Stewart McKane, Rosie Jewell, Sue Newport, Mike Salmon, Trish West, Rafal Zawistowski



# OP News

News about and from OPs in 2021. Some items have been edited and shortened, with the full news items available to read on the OP website. Please send news items for the Summer Edition of the Pangbournian Magazine to [development@pangbourne.com](mailto:development@pangbourne.com)

## 1950s

### M.R.S. 'Bill' Bailey (Q 58-62)

In September, Bill, 76, squeezed back into lycra one more time to help out with “a very worthwhile project” for a charity called PTSD Resolution. It provides assistance to serving and retired members of the UK armed forces who are suffering trauma or mental health issues as a result of experiences in war and crisis situations.

With a friend, Jonathan Thomson, Bill rode from east to west across the French Pyrenees on a four-day journey. After a two-day rest, the pair undertook the return route from Argeles-Sur-Mer, ending about eight days later at Hendaye on the Atlantic coast.



Bailey MRS 'Bill' (58-62)



Richard Waldron 'Apples and Apron'

### Richard Waldron (H 52-56)

Richard a graphic design consultant, specialist in corporate branding and marketing graphics with 40 years' experience has taken up his brush in “retirement” and reverted to the influence of his early training at the Croydon Art School in the 1960s.

Richard paints mainly figurative landscape and figure work, plus some still life. Richard's work has been exhibited at the Guildhall Gallery, with the Honourable Company of Painter Stainers Fine Art Society, the Dorking Group of Artists and B Gallery. In 2020 he won the SAA Still Life Professional Artist of the Year award for one of his watercolours, Apples and Apron.

### Peter Tambling (S 50-53)

Peter has been awarded HM The

Queen's Award for Voluntary Services. He is, and has been for many years, a Senior Watch Officer with the National Coast Watch Institution (NCWI) at Portland Bill.

The NCWI records the names of all passing shipping traffic. His Buoyage System for Incompatible Water Sports has had a huge impact since being approved by the International Maritime Organisation in 1992. After years of accidents involving jet skis, sailboards and water-skiers in Weymouth Bay, there has not been a single fatal incident in the past 20 years.



Peter Tambling (50-53)

## 1960s

### Robin Knight (H 56-61)

In August, Robin published *Leaders: Profiles in Courage and Bravery in War and Peace 1917-2020*. Documenting singular actions by OPs during a turbulent century since the College was founded, it highlights a number of outstanding Second World War and post-1945 military and civilian heroes as well as recounting noteworthy exploits in the world of international sport. An article later in the magazine provides more detail.



Robin Knight (H 56-61)

### Tom Woolley (60-65)

Tom sold Targe Towing in January this year to Forth Ports Limited. Its tug and marine craft fleet are being integrated with Targe Towing's under Targe's management, meaning that



Tom Woolley (60-65)

the combined fleet will total 21 vessels once a couple of oldies are sold.

"I am staying on as Managing Director until December 2021 - my 75th birthday, and after that will work part time."

### Nicholas Courtney (58-62)

In February, Nicholas featured in a Channel 5 programme "Princess Margaret: Queen of Mustique." Courtney was General Manager on Mustique in the Caribbean between 1970-77 when Prince Margaret owned a property on the island. The author of a number of books, Courtney's biography *Lord of the*



Nicholas Courtney (58-62)

*Isle* (sub-titled *The Extravagant Life of Colin Tennant*) about the owner of Mustique, Lord Glenconner, was published in 2012 to wide acclaim.

## 1970s

### Sir David Harding (72-78)

Sir David received a Knighthood in the 2022 New Year Honours List in recognition of services to philanthropy. The founder and Chairman of Winton Group attended Pangbourne from 1972 to 1978 before studying at Cambridge. In 2019, David donated £100 million to Cambridge University, the largest donation by a British citizen to any university.



David Harding (72-78)

### Phillip Plato (H 73-77)

In June, Phillip met with members of the Lower Sixth to talk about networking, and the value of the Old Pangbournian network. Initially, three pupils were invited to role play a networking event, and talked about the skills needed to make





Phillip Plato (H 73-77)

a positive and lasting impression. Phillip Plato then talked about the global network that current students would soon be joining, and the excellent opportunities that existed for those that participate.

### Peter Wetherell (66-70)

The Naval Club at 38 Hill Street, Mayfair in the centre of London close to Berkeley Square, was put up for sale for £35 million in April. For many years the Club has been the location of OP Society AGM and Committee meetings. One of the joint selling agents is OP Peter Wetherell who runs the Mayfair estate agency Wetherell.



Peter Wetherell (66-70)

The Naval Club, established in 1919, moved into the 17,000 sq ft property in 1946 when the house was acquired by the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve (RNVR).

Peter Wetherell expects its new owner to be a billionaire “with an art collection and a portfolio of beautiful homes around the world.” Once the house is renovated, Wetherell believes it could have 16 bedrooms and two floors of reception rooms and be worth up to £100 million. The OP Society understands it has been sold.



John Fisher (I 68-73)

### John Fisher (I 68-73)

John recently appeared in Channel 4s property series Britain’s Most Expensive Houses, documenting life at Sotheby’s International Realty, where he is Head of Country House & Estate Sales. John is described as “an English gent who wears red suede shoes and beige trousers.”

## 1980s

### Giles Fuchs (78-83)

Owner of the iconic art deco Burgh Island hotel off the coast of South Devon, Giles got some welcome publicity in the ITV show “Agatha & Poirot – Partners in Crime” shown on national television in early April.



Giles Fuchs (78-83)

Several of Christie’s books were set in the hotel and its grounds by the sea and written in its beach house when she visited Burgh Island on holiday, And Then There Were None (published in 1939; to date it has sold more than 100 million copies) and Evil Under The Sun, (published in 1941) are the two best-known of these books.

The luxuriantly moustachioed Giles, has restored much of the luxurious hotel to its former 1920s glory purchased it in 2018.



Major General Tom Copinger-Symes CBE (82-87)

### Major General Tom Copinger-Symes CBE (82-87)

Senior serving OP in the Armed Services, Major General Tom Copinger-Symes played a leading role in a high-level Remote Leadership Course put on by The Centre for Army Leadership in March. Copinger-Symes is the Army's Director of Military Digitisation. The former Chief Cadet Captain of the College and Queen's Gold Medallist was Guest of Honour at the Remembrance Sunday parade in November.

In 2020, as Assistant Colonel Commandant, Copinger-Symes was present at Windsor Castle to offer he salute to The Rifles Regiment's outgoing Colonel-in-Chief, the Prince Phillip, Duke of Edinburgh.

### 1990s

#### Commander Hugh Botterill RN (I 89-95)

In May, former Chairman of the OP Society Merrick Rayner (Q 68-73) reported of the recent departure of F239 HMS Richmond under the command of Commander Hugh Botterill.

Hugh was awarded an MBE in 2018 in recognition of service on HMS Diamond and HMS



Hugh Botterill (89-95)

Daring. Hugh returned to the College as guest of honour to take parade in January 2020.

HMS Richmond left Plymouth to join the UK Carrier Strike Group in Portsmouth.

The CSG includes the aircraft carrier HMS Queen Elizabeth, Type 45 destroyers HMS Diamond and HMS Defender, Type 23 frigates HMS Kent and HMS Richmond and an Astute-class submarine.

### James Austen (PJ 92-97)

James, a recruitment specialist, was a keynote speaker at the Careers Day in March, this year held virtually. James introduced



James Austen (PJ 92-97)

students to Shortlister, a video interviewing tool. Andrew Sumner (PJ 79-86), Head of Careers and Enterprise, said: "Each pupil had an opportunity to record and re-record two interviews in an industry sector



in which they are interested in working. Going forward, there will be other opportunities for students to practise and hone their presentation skills with this online interviewing software.”

### Alex Tilley (I 92-98)

Alex has volunteered as OP Representative for Malaysia and Singapore. He has worked in marine conservation in Fiji and working at Jeppe High School for boys in South Africa. He spent two years working as a tour leader in the Middle East, India, Nepal, Russia and the Baltic States, returning to DICE (Durrell Institute of Conservation & Ecology) in Canterbury to study conservation biology, and then spent the next two years in Mozambique running a lodge and researching whale sharks.

“I moved to the Caribbean to run a marine research lab on a coral atoll in Belize. I also met



Alex Tilley (I 92-98)

my Colombian wife, Juliana, in Belize. She is a marine biologist like me, and together we founded an NGO Talking Oceans [www.talking-oceans.org](http://www.talking-oceans.org) We have two sons, aged 6 and 2. I was with the Smithsonian Institution for a couple of years doing fisheries research in Colombia and Myanmar, then we moved to East Timor to work with my current organisation, WorldFish a research-for-development organisation which has a focus on alleviating poverty and improving wellbeing in low-income countries through small-scale fisheries and aquaculture.”

### Mark Hamilton (I 88-93)

In February Mark gave an inspirational talk to Sixth Formers. Now Commander Marine Engineer of HMS Queen Elizabeth, he described his 23-year career in the Royal Navy as what he had always wanted to do and shared valuable anecdotal advice.

At school, he was a member of the record-breaking Pangbourne College Princess Elizabeth Cup winning crew of 1992, a crew with whom he is still in touch today.

One of the key roles of the Royal Navy, he explained, is to keep the shipping routes of the world



Mark Hamilton (I 88-93)

open and free from pirates. More than 90% of trade uses these routes and Mark was part of the Royal Navy team responsible for helping free hostages on a Somali pirate vessel in 2011.

Mark encouraged the Sixth Form to make excellence a habit, to follow their dreams and to remember that ‘it does not matter how you got to where you are, you are where you are and the true measure is how you respond’.

## 2000s

### Tom Read Wilson (H 98-03)

Tom, who has carved a career out of celebrity television, appeared on the BBC-1 programme Celebrity Best Home Cook in February where he was described as “posh reality-TV graduate Tom Read Wilson, cartoonishly handsome, plummy-voiced and with a huge smile...”

Celebrity Best Home Cook followed Tom's starring role in E4's *Celebs Go Dating*, where he acts as host to the various celebrities making them feel comfortable and offering reassuring words as they prepare for their dates.



Tom Read Wilson (H 98-03)

### **Pierre Coombes (H 98-02)**

In January, Pierre spoke to Sixth Formers as part of their General Studies series. Pierre is Founder and Managing Director of Big Wolf Marketing. Pierre gave pupils an insight into the world of marketing and recommended pupils choose happiness above anything else.

As he was unsure about what he wanted to study at A Level and university, he left school early and fell into the music industry, writing songs and touring. In 2014 he set up his own marketing agency which grew to become an international



Pierre Coombes (H 98-02)

company with offices in the UK, Ireland, and the Ukraine. He has also set up a franchise in Australia with a school friend, James Fox (S 99-04). He is now a passionate self-educator and recognises that those who are successful in business are very good at acquiring knowledge about everything they want to create and sell.

### **Tommy Alexander (Q 03-08)**

Tommy kicked off Pangbourne's "Win January" online sports seminar series for pupils during



Tommy Alexander (Q 03-08)

the national lockdown. Speaking from his home in Germany, where he is a professional hockey player, Tommy was interviewed by Director of Sport Sam Hewick (PJ 06-08) about his sporting career.

### **Jess Payne (S 97-02)**

As part of International Women's Day in March, the College caught up with Jess. After leaving Pangbourne, she studied Medicine at Imperial College London, where she continued to enjoy playing hockey. Now she is a Senior Registrar in intensive care and emergency medicine at The Royal London Hospital and training in pre-hospital medicine alongside these specialisms.

From September 2020, together with her role at The Royal London, she has been a helicopter medic with the London's Air Ambulance in an advanced critical care team which flies to patients who are critically unwell. Before then, she worked in intensive care at Queen's Hospital, Romford, during the first waves of the pandemic.

## **2010s**

### **Ed Winter (S 09-16)**

Passed out at Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth as a Warfare Midshipman in April 2021.

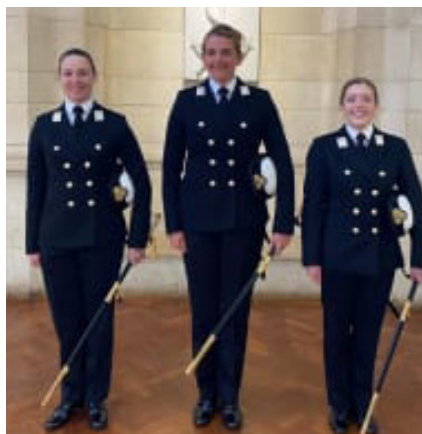


### Emily Howard (St G 05-12)

Emily successfully graduated from Britannia Royal Naval College Dartmouth as Midshipman in April 2021.

In writing to the Headmaster, her father Eric paid tribute to the College:

“...the main point of our contact is to blow the Pangbourne Trumpet – Emily graduated last Thursday from BRNC. Her timing proved to be most challenging...with all the restrictions that the virus has imposed. A testament to her grit & determination, borne no doubt from her time at The College.”



Emily Howard (St G 05-12)

### Rory Harris (H 11-16)

Rory won the Queen Mother Challenge Cup (Men's Quad Sculls) at Henley Royal Regatta in August. Rory, in the bow seat, joined Jack Beaumont, Harry Leask and Tom Barras, three of Great Britain's Olympic silver



Rory Harris (H 11-16)

medal winning crew in the Men's Quad in Tokyo.

### Jess Brown (I 07-12)

As part of International Women's Day in March, the College caught up with Jess. Since leaving school, Jess studied for a Master's Degree in Physics and Astronomy at the University of Exeter, where she returned for a 6-month graduate business partner internship,

During her internship, Jess was offered a PhD position in the EPSRC Centre for Doctoral Training in Metamaterials, part



Jess Brown (I 07-12)

of the Centre for Metamaterial Research and Innovation, now recognised as one of the leading centres of excellence in the field in the UK

“One of the highlights was being a speaker for Soapbox Science, a female-led, worldwide initiative developed to amplify the voices of women in science. When I finish my PhD, I am hoping to find a role in scientific communication or public engagement in some capacity.”

## 2020s

### Calum Scott (PJ 16-21)

Since leaving the College in July, Calum has secured a 2-year



Calum Scott (PJ 16-21)

professional contract with London Irish Senior Rugby Academy. Calum has been in the London Irish Academy since the age of 13. Calum was also selected for the England U18 training squad.



The Old Pangbournian Society is  
delighted to invite you to

# FOUNDERS DAY

on

Saturday 2 July 2022

Meet up with friends, share  
memories and be reunited with  
school contemporaries you have  
lost touch with.



## All Old Pangbournians and former parents and staff are extremely welcome

Book your place at [community.pangbourne.com/events](https://community.pangbourne.com/events)

Tim Hamilton - Head of Development e: [development@pangbourne.com](mailto:development@pangbourne.com) t: 0118 976 6697

Pangbourne College, Pangbourne, Reading, Berkshire, RG8 8LA





# Prince Philip remembered

It was with great sadness that we received the news of the death of His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, just after midday on Friday 9 April. In tribute, the College's ensign was flown at half-mast until 18 April. The following day, the Headmaster wrote to The Queen on behalf of the whole Pangbourne College community to express our deepest condolences to her and the Royal Family on their loss.





*'In his life, Prince Philip was an inspiration,' said the Headmaster, 'a man of strong character and action whose energies were directed to serving others, whether through his many areas of interest or, most significantly, through his love for, commitment to and support of his wife and our Queen. In this, his contribution to the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth may only be fully appreciated in years to come.'*

We are deeply conscious of the privilege of having been visited four times by the Duke at significant points in the school's history and his tremendous support for our holistic approach to a broad education which includes within it a unique ceremonial tradition. In July 1953, shortly after The Queen's coronation, he came for Founders' Day and opened Macquarie, the first of two new



ABOVE: Prince Philip visit May 2017 during centenary year celebrations.

MAIN PHOTO: His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, visit in 2007 during the 25th anniversary celebrations for the end of the Falklands War.





Prince Philip visit May 2017 during centenary year celebrations.

boys' boarding houses at that time demonstrating the school's growing popularity.

In 1967, accompanying The Queen, he visited the school as part of our 50th anniversary celebrations. The day included a full tour of the school and an opportunity to watch the sailing of his boat, Te Kotuku, on loan to the College down at the Boat Club on the Pangbourne stretch of the River Thames.

In 2007, more than 10 years after the school had become co-educational, he accompanied The Queen for the Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving in the Falkland Islands Memorial Chapel on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the end of the Falklands War. This was a national event which allowed pupils to witness the significance of the school's chapel in the nation's life, as well as meet The

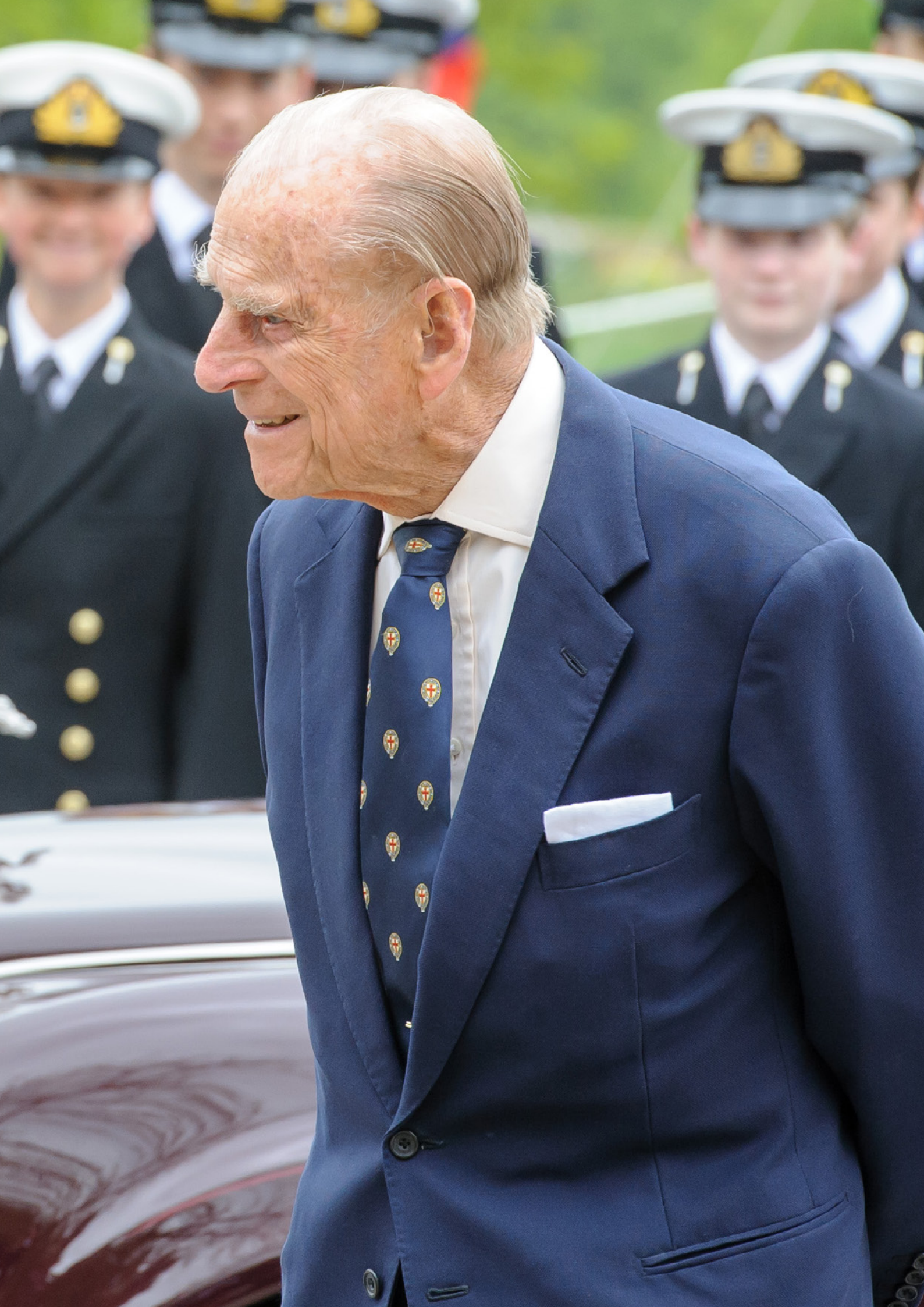
Queen and The Duke on their walkabout after the service.

Most recently, in May 2017, he and The Queen visited the school as part of our centenary year celebrations. On this occasion there was a special Thanksgiving Service, walkabout, lunch in the Old Library, and then a short parade and presentation of The Queen's Gold Medals, all of which he seemed to enjoy greatly. This visit was made more special because it was one of his final Royal engagements before he retired from public life in August of that year.

The Headmaster said, *'We will remember him with gratitude as a man who was deeply motivated to help young people flourish. He was a role model for our pupils in that he embodied our ethos which aims to fulfil their potential by equipping them with confidence, values and skills for the future, so that they can influence the world for good.'*

*'The school has always embraced adventurous training during its history. Since 2003, through the adoption of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme, his essential contribution to the development of every Pangbournian has been felt and will continue to do so in the future.'*







# MILESTONE REUNIONS

18 JUNE 2022

Pangbourne College invites all Old Pangbournians from the classes of 2011 & 12, 2001 & 02, 1991 & 92, and 1981 & 82 back to Pangbourne for a bumper celebration of their 10, 20, 30, and 40 Year Milestone Reunions.

Don't miss this golden opportunity to reconnect with friends and relive the glory days in the place that started it all!

More information and tickets are at [community.pangbourne.com/events](https://community.pangbourne.com/events)

## Young Alum Night

5 May 2022

celebrating the 5 year reunion  
of the classes of 2016 & 2017

All OPs 35 & under are invited to this new annual Thursday night meet-up in London.

Sip drinks, nibble on bar bites, and catch up with friends just as the days get longer and the weather gets warmer, we'll see you there.

More information and tickets are at [community.pangbourne.com/events](https://community.pangbourne.com/events)

# Upcoming Events

Fri 18 March



Careers Day

Sun 24 April



Platinum Parade

Thu 5 May



Young Alum Night

Sat 4 June



Classic Car Show

Sat 18 June



10/20/30/40  
Milestone Reunions

Mon 27 June



New OP Welcome BBQ

Thu 30 & Fri 1 July



OP Tent @ Henley  
Royal Regatta

Sat 2 July



Founders' Day

Sat 29 October



Old Pangbournian  
Society Dinner

You can register for upcoming events, check important information,  
and see what's new at [community.pangbourne.com/events](https://community.pangbourne.com/events)



# OP Club News

## OP Yacht Club



OPs enjoying the Arrow Trophy Regatta

### OPYC entry to Belvidere Cup

James Minter (83-88) skippered another entry in this inter-school alumni regatta, racing J80's on Queen Mary Reservoir in April. A day out on the water is always a great day! Crew: *James Minter, Ed Nation, Rohan Batra, James Morrow*

### Round the Island Race

This year saw 4 OP crewed boats racing round the Isle of Wight. Troubadour- Andy Roy 346<sup>th</sup>  
Go-Go – Paul Butterworth 360<sup>th</sup>  
Bright Future – Alan Kelvey 432<sup>nd</sup>

Jenn-oh – Peter Kewish 505<sup>th</sup>

### Commodore's Rally

In August, after nearly 2 years

since the last social gathering on the water. 5 boats and 15 intrepid sailors met in Cowes for the Commodore's Rally.

Fantastic weather made the weekend even more enjoyable despite the lack of wind. A formal dinner hosted by RORC was the highlight. Thanks go to all for attending and to Jeremy Owen for organising. So nice to have OP Society Chairman Philip Plato joining us and get an idea of what we get up to while mucking about in boats!

### Arrow Trophy

The Arrow Trophy Yacht Racing Association sponsors a sailing competition between Independent Schools, raced as an

annual weekend regatta, crewed by former pupils. This year, the 26 entries were split into two separate fleets. Pangbourne were racing in Division 2 with a brilliant crew who did a fantastic job in appalling conditions.

Foul conditions with up to Force 9 gusts meant that the number of races was reduced. However, this didn't dampen spirits for the Pangbourne crew. We placed 6<sup>th</sup> in the first race. Saturday's second race was to see Team Pangbourne over the finish line in 2<sup>nd</sup> position. Sunday's racing format was a 'round the cans', covering c.10 miles around the Solent. Leaving the start line in 4<sup>th</sup>, the Pangbourne helm (James Minter) took the second mark on a starboard tack, knocking the 3 boats ahead of us to tack away from the mark. We pulled away some 5 boat lengths towards the final mark, even making considerable ground towards the fleet ahead. With 1/4 mile between us the boat behind, we romped over the finish line with a win! Crew: *Peter Kewish, James Minter, Rob Mitchell, Ian Kirton, Larry Plant, Rohan Batra, Ed Nation, Ed Nash*

# OP Golf Club

## Summer Meeting

On 30 June 2021, after a long hiatus, over 30 golfers descended the OPGC held their Summer Meeting at Frilford Golf Club.

## Centenary Cup Matchplay Tournament

In September in fine, but blustery conditions, with the Red course at The Berkshire in pristine condition, Charlie Parry took on Jasper Fulford-Dobson who, in an excellent first year in the tournament, took an early lead. Honours were even at half way. However, settled golf including an impressive birdie at the difficult 12<sup>th</sup> hole, Charlie ran out a 4 & 3 winner.



Jasper Fulford-Dobson with Charlie Parry

# Over 60s Turf Club Luncheon

On Tuesday 23 November, around 50 gathered at the Turf Club, Carlton Terrace in London for an Over 60s Luncheon. Generously hosted by Mark Dumas (Q 64-68), those gathered enjoyed a delicious lunch and some fine wines.

After a brief introduction from our host, the Head Thomas Garnier gave an update on the College and introduced some early thinking on the School's Development Plan, which the Head and Governors are currently working on. Those gathered were very grateful that no references to Peppa Pig World were included in his short address.

Lunch was a convivial affair, and having recently attended the OP Falklands Reunion and



the launch of Leaders: Profiles in Courage and Bravery by Robin Knight (H 56-61), there was much conversation about the extraordinary contribution that Old Pangbournians have made over the generations.

Phillip Plato (H 73-77), Chairman of the Old Pangbournian Society, closed the luncheon by giving warm

thanks to our host and sharing a number of exciting updates from the Society, including news of the purchase of the Edward VIII Gold Medal earlier in the year.

The author of this piece sadly had to return to the College with the Head, but I am reliably informed that drinks continued at the Army & Navy Club long into the evening.



A portrait of an older man with dark, wavy hair, wearing a dark suit, a light blue shirt, and a dark tie with red and white diagonal stripes. He has a red poppy pinned to his left lapel and a colorful striped ribbon with medals on his right lapel. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

# Anchor of the Pangbourne ship

By Robin Knight

When Lionel Stephens arrived in 1954 at the Nautical College Pangbourne (NCP) in Berkshire to teach history, the school's single purpose was to train boys for the Royal or Merchant Navy. The regime was tough: a mile run before breakfast to be followed by a cold shower, and parades twice a day. The college was run by the captain superintendent, a naval officer, and a system of hierarchy prevailed among the boys and the year groups.



Lionel, who became known as “Steve” or “Basil” to staff, pupils and generations of OPs, had been teaching history at the school for a dozen or more years when, in the late 1960s, the shipping companies that had funded Pangbourne started going out of business. It looked as if the school was heading for the rocks and, to avert a potential catastrophe, Lionel stepped into the breach. He was often firm in his views and undeterred by criticism. Nobody, however, ever mistook his forthright positions for anything other than total loyalty to the College and its historic values. It was whilst running Macquarie in the second half of the 1960s that this was best seen at a time when the Nautical College was heading for the rocks. In 1967, never afraid to speak his mind, he was one of three members of the academic staff who, by-passing an unyielding Captain Superintendent, prepared a strong memorandum urging the Governors to de-emphasise the sea-going approach to education and presented it to the Board. Their initiative paid off. Two years later the captain superintendent resigned

and the NCP morphed into the more liberal Pangbourne College. Out went the nautical emphasis on the education offered and in came a friendlier, more consensual outlook. The momentum had started and for Lionel, who embraced reform — often in a minority of one — the ideas kept coming. From then on, he evolved into the ‘conscience of the College’ to quote his close friend and long-time colleague Morton Hooper. They included a careers room for those not wishing to go to sea, improvements to the library’s shelves and a growing range of “hobbies” (in the early days a chess club and a printing press). Lionel also lobbied for the so-called minor sports such as squash to take place one afternoon a week.

The arrival of Peter Points in 1969 as the school’s first

headmaster served to further galvanise Lionel. A practising Christian, he began to deliver eloquent and thoughtful sermons in chapel. Ever the historian, he started a lone decades-long struggle to preserve and collate the school archives that were stored in a 19th-century cellar and he once saved them from a flood caused by a burst pipe.

*“The omnipresent glue which held the OP system together for which we should all be very, very grateful” reckoned another.”*

Lionel Stephens was born in 1926 to Albert, a bank manager, and Dorothy (née Hallum). He had an elder brother, Edward, who emigrated to what was then Rhodesia after the Second World War. Lionel was largely raised in Bedford and went to Bedford School.

MAIN PHOTO: Lionel Stephens in 2000.  
RIGHT: Lionel with OPs in 2005.







Lionel with Pat, Nick (80-87), Jenny and their families in 2009.

In 1944, when he was 18, he was called up for basic training with the Royal East Kent regiment known as the Buffs. He embarked for India the day after VE Day and was in the country when the atomic bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945. Soon after he was deployed to the North-West Frontier Province to keep peace with a Pashtun tribal leader known as the Faqir of Ipi, whose objective was to drive the British out and set up a separate state. Lionel was assigned the role of regimental motor transport officer in charge of 75 mules as well as motor vehicles, but hadn't yet learnt to drive so taught himself in a Bren gun carrier. In his role of transport officer he

reasoned he could sign his own certificate of competence to drive and when he returned to Britain in January 1947 he never took a test.

Lionel taught sport at a prep school before going up to Merton College, Oxford, later that year. He graduated with a degree in modern history and then, largely to please his father, joined the Macleans toothpaste company in Brentford before deciding to change direction and settling on a teaching career.

At the College Steve taught History and was Head of the History Department for 25 years in addition to being Housemaster of both Port Jackson and Macquarie Divisions. Among his

many other contributions to the well-being of the school, he was master-in-charge of rugby and cricket for lengthy periods.

In the mid-1950s he had joined Blackheath rugby football club in southeast London and at Pangbourne he relished the role of master in charge of rugby, coaching a team that remained unbeaten for its first two years. He also co-founded the Nightowls cricket team. Beyond school life, he became a leading rugby referee, reaching his peak with a touchline role in 1961 at an England international at Twickenham.

Behind the forthright demeanour there was a touch of the exhibitionist about Lionel and he



appeared in school productions of Gilbert and Sullivan operettas showing an acute sense of comic timing and a mischievous sense of humour.

This catalogue of achievements, impressive as it is, eventually earned Steve the moniker of Pangbourne's second 'Mr Chips' following in the footsteps of Harry Sykes and his 50-year involvement to 1967. But it in no way gets to the essence of the man. As a former colleague remarked on hearing of his death: "I will treasure the memory of a man whose probity, integrity, sense of duty and commitment were beyond question." In effect, Steve in his person and his actions came to epitomise many of the values that have lain at the heart

of an unusual school since its foundation in 1917.

In 1963, aged 37, he married Pat Bradley, the sister-in-charge of Sick Bay and a former military nurse who had worked in a field hospital behind advancing Allied ground forces in Normandy after D-Day. They raised two children: Nicholas, a director of a holiday letting and cottage cleaning company in Whitby, North Yorkshire, and Jenny, a teacher in Winchcombe, Gloucestershire.

### *"He became the conscience of the College"*

On retirement in 1986, Lionel and Pat settled in Goring, Oxfordshire, and he continued his commitment to Pangbourne. He researched and wrote the first history of the College, which was published in 1991, and as the honorary secretary of the OP Society edited the OP magazine, wrote countless letters to OPs, and visited them in Australia, New Zealand, Canada and South Africa. He attended innumerable dinners, meetings, funerals and reunions. Pat died in 2012.

It was with some reluctance that Lionel retired from the old boys association in 2009 at the age of 83. He had given 55 years

to the school. Remembered as a strongly individual character with firm views that he did not hesitate to express, Lionel ended up epitomising what a colleague described as "the conscience of the college" or, as an old boy put it, "the anchor of the Pangbourne ship".

Following his death, tributes from OPs and others poured in. He was "a great and unique person who has touched many of us over the years" wrote one. "The omnipresent glue which held the OP system together for which we should all be very, very grateful" reckoned another. "A very special person, always himself. An irreplaceable character" messaged a third. "I had huge respect for his directness and knowledge" posted a fourth. Lionel Stephens, like Harry Sykes before him, lived for the College at Pangbourne. His contribution will not easily be forgotten."

*A service of remembrance was held for Lionel on Tuesday 14 September at the College. Over 150 OPs, family, friends and former colleagues joined together to remember his life and the contribution he made to the College.*



# Lionel Stephens' archive project

In July Sue Carpenter, mother of Old Pangbournian Dan Carpenter (PJ 16-21), volunteered to become the new College Archivist. Her interest in archiving began at her son's prep school St Neot's, where her passion for military history led her to research the schools casualties of the First World War who's stories she compiled into a book entitled 'Playing field to Battlefield'.



It was at this point that Sue took over the care of the school's archives, cataloguing and preserving them for future generations. On numerous research trips to the National Archives at Kew Sue was able to get advice from the experts including the Head of Private Archives and later the expert team of conservators at The Vyne, where Sue volunteers with the National Trust as a room guide.

**What attracted you to the role, and why did you volunteer?**

Since my son first came to Pangbourne I'd been fascinated by the history behind the College's traditions and terminology. Knowing from previous experience that school archives are often under-

resourced due to the myriad of other demands made on schools I offered my help. The role is one I get a great deal of enjoyment and satisfaction from. The opportunity to meet and talk with so many OP's is a real bonus and the satisfaction of taking a long forgotten and neglected item, preserving and researching it and in the process bringing an amazing story to life is fantastic.

### What was the first thing you did when you started the role?

My first priority was to find a temporary home for the archive which had to vacate the Harry Sykes Room as it was being repurposed to form part of the new café development in the College Shop. After moving the collection to Devitt House, covering both the Dining Room and the Old Library the next task was to sort through the items and gently clean them to remove decades of dust before placing them in safe storage.

### Did any items in particular stand out?

Among the hundreds of photographs two in particular stood out. They were images of Captain Scott's ship the Terra Nova taken on his fateful polar expedition in 1912. The images were taken by the expedition's



King George VI with Princess Elizabeth in 1943



A long dramatic tradition



On the terrace in wartime

official photographer, Herbert Ponting and as I began to delve deeper into the collection a number of items have come to light which link to these photographs to tell the story of Commander Jackie Blair, Pangbourne's own polar adventurer.

### How do you feel about what you find?

It's impossible not to feel a buzz of excitement when you find yourself looking at the College's first record books from 1917, handling a sextant that went to the pole with Captain Scott, reading a letter written by

Admiral Lord Nelson or looking at photographs of a young Princess Elizabeth taken when she visited the College with her father King George VI. It makes me all the more determined to preserve these items and to research the stories surrounding them for future generations.

### Have you been contacted by anyone outside of the College regarding the archives?

Since the digitisation project began we've been contacted by a number of family tree researchers looking for background information on relatives who attended the College. It's fantastic





A large collection of College photographs

to be able to add to their stories and fill in some gaps and in turn get to know more about the lives of Old Pangbournians and their achievements in later life.

### **So what is the aim of the Lionel Stephens' Archive Project?**

During the time I've spent sifting through the papers and documents in the collection one name has been a constant companion, that of Lionel Stephens. Very sadly Lionel passed away last year at the age of ninety five and sadly we never got the opportunity to meet but from the little I've learned of him in the archives I think we may

have had a lot in common when it comes to a love of history and the importance of preserving it.

The fact that the College has an archive at all is largely down to Lionel. For many years he fought valiantly to preserve the history he cared so much about. He was acutely aware of the many demands on College finances and facilities but argued that the archive was part of the very fabric of the College and needed to be treated as such. Lionel petitioned for many years for a permanent home for the archive and this still needs to be found. Fortunately archiving materials and preservation standard storage are now more readily available than



Richard Shuttleworth's 1st XV Cap 1961

they were a few years ago but they come at a cost. With digital technology we have the ability to make these fascinating records available to a wider audience but support is also needed to meet these costs.

Despite this I agree wholeheartedly with Lionel Stephens that the record of this remarkable place should be preserved and used to inspire and inform future generations. It would be a fitting tribute to a man who cared so much for the history of this place if we could build on the solid foundations that he laid and create this archive in his memory.

**Help us ensure that the history of the College, and the legacy of Lionel Stephens' work is preserved for generations to come.**

**By giving £20 per month, for example, you will enable us to digitise records, photos and documents, and photograph objects and memorabilia left to the College.**

**The estimated cost over the next 5 years is £40,000 to fully digitise the archives, and to create a permanent home for displaying our best items.**

**To find out more scan here**



# PPA

## The Pangbourne Parents' Association

The Pangbourne Parents' Association (PPA) is a voluntary organisation which raises funds for the College and a nominated local charity, Young People and Children First. The PPA is chaired by Jayne Wells, wife of Andy Wells (PJ 79-86) and has a committee of 10 parents.

Like others, activities and events have been curtailed by the pandemic, but in spite of that, the PPA have worked tirelessly to raise funds. The 'Hollywood Ball' planned for October was postponed until March 2022, but the Committee managed to run their only event of the year in November.

The Christmas Bazaar run by Candida Kennedy, who remained on the Committee after her son Luca Kennedy (H 14-21) had graduated, was a roaring success. The market brought the whole community back together after a hiatus due to the pandemic and it was fantastic to see current and former parents mixing with local people from the area. The market itself raised almost £3,000.



This year has seen the launch of the PPA Shop, an online shop on the Pangbournian Portal, which has enabled us to run fundraising initiatives in spite of not being able to run events. Available items include a Pangbourne College 2022 Calendar, Christmas Cards and Divisional Tote Bags, in addition to limited edition signed prints of Devitt House and the Falklands Chapel.

All proceeds from events and these initiatives go towards support the College and our nominated charity. In 2021, the PPA donated over £5,000 to support various departments. The PPA was also able to donate £2,500 to Young People and Children First (YPACF) who look after young people when they leave foster care, helping them to find work and a new home.

The grants to the College this year included funds towards the purchase of new strength and

conditioning equipment for the gym, new lighting for the drama department, outdoor seating for Illawarra, and equipment for the Wellbeing Room in the Health Centre.

**30**  
parents volunteered with  
PPA events this year

**£2,500**  
given to local charity  
YPACF

**£5,000**  
given to the College  
in grants



# Campus Life

## Academic news

### Students overcame the challenges of COVID-19 to achieve exam success

Despite the upheaval faced this academic year, students achieved results which have thoroughly reflected their capabilities and academic potential. The percentage of A Level A\*- A grades was 45%, evidence of the wealth of talented students in this year's group. The overall pass rate for GCSE was 97% and 46% of the Grades were 9-7.

The vast majority of A Level students will be progressing to their firm-choice universities. Amongst those celebrating is Music Scholar Grace Spalton, who achieved A\*A\* A and has accepted a place at the University of Cambridge to study Natural Sciences.

Six students will be heading to Durham University, with others taking up places at other Russell Group universities including the University of Edinburgh, University of York, University of Exeter and King's College London.

Individual GCSE success stories include Jonathan who achieved a straight set of ten grade 9 GCSEs



Happy GCSE pupils on results day

and Daniel who achieved nine grade 9s and one grade 8.

Mark Seccombe, Director of Studies says: "In common with most schools, we put a lot of time and effort into the Teacher Assessed Grades earlier this Summer. We gathered

evidence from a broad range of assessments, including teacher-set examinations. We also carried out a rigorous moderation process before submission, so we are highly confident that these grades are fair reflections of individual pupils' achievements."

## The High Potential Achievers Programme's Success Continues

Recent focus has been on further developing an environment where intellectual gifts are fostered and academic excellence is valued. Our HPA programme has been established by Jack Sims to challenge pupils from all year groups in their chosen disciplines.

With specialised supra curricular activities and support from an assigned mentor, those in the programme receive specialist care and help in fostering a love of learning. The work of HPA pupils now features in the newly published annual journal called *The Crow's Nest*, available to read on the College website.

In September 2021, Mr Sims launched the Dunbar Project Qualification (DPQ), offering prospective Academic Scholars in Year 7 a pathway to the HPA Programme. The qualification



Grace Spalton who has accepted a place at the University of Cambridge

combines scholarship preparation for core subjects with elements of the International Baccalaureate. Students are also asked to complete a large written project on a chosen area, as well as extra Theory of Knowledge lessons.

Mr Sims comments, "We have already seen the enormous benefits of this programme for

our HPA pupils, with one of the 2021 cohort being offered a place at Cambridge and six going onto Durham. The College has reacted in an astonishingly good way and I look forward to seeing how the HPA Programme helps build bright futures for the children at Pangbourne College."

Six happy U6 HPA students, all off to Durham





# Sports news

## Lockdown 3 and the sports department leads the way with 'Win January'

At the turn of the year, Director of Sport Sam Hewick (PJ 06-08) encouraged pupils to re-define 'winning' and focus on ways they can 'win' every day.



To help them meet this challenge, the department provided a series of activities and initiatives for pupils and staff to undertake during lockdown to help them to 'Win January'.

Among the activities there were daily sports skill challenges, weekly fitness challenges, and a webinar series featuring national and international sport stars, including rugby World Cup winner, Danny Grewcock.

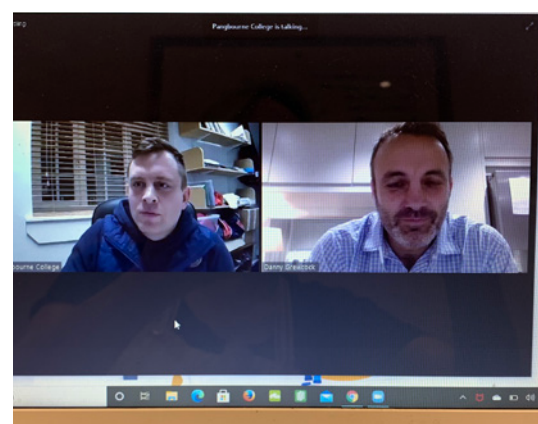
Sam Hewick said: "The webinars have proved popular with pupils and parents as many of the lessons have explored skills for life, not just those who are keen on sport. Their aims have been to add a different layer to our sporting provision and we have been very fortunate to have some excellent guests."

In addition, the Boat Club created an Olympic-themed challenge: 'Race to Tokyo'. The challenge was quickly

seized upon by the most energetic members of the school community and distances rose fast on the Boat Club Strava page. In just over three weeks, the Club had completed the required distance of 16,348km to reach the Olympic Rowing venue in Tokyo and decided to go on to circumnavigate the globe before the end of term!

Mr Follett said: "It was fabulous to see so many people taking part with such consistent enthusiasm. It has also been lovely to see so many members of the College community joining the senior rowers for their Saturday morning Google Meet training sessions for the combined social and health benefits they provide."

Sam Hewick and Danny Grewcock on webinar



# Grays Hockey sponsorship opportunity for U6 student

Megan Fergusson, has been offered an incredible opportunity to be a Team Sports Brand Ambassador with top-class sports equipment company Grays International.

Megan's hockey career has gone from strength to strength over the years, despite being born without her lower left arm. Learning the art of adaptability, she has never let this hold her back. As part of her newfound responsibilities within the role, school and club visits are on the agenda. Megan will spend time helping to build confidence with children that lack belief. "I've never let my disability hold me back in life and in hockey" explains Megan, "I've adapted and have come



through stronger as a result and I believe that I can achieve what those with two hands can achieve."

# Show jumper pupil selected for Podium Potential Pathway

In May, it was announced that U6 student, Josie Symons was selected for the Podium Potential pathway level of the World Class programme that is part of the Olympic Development Squad.

Upon beginning her time here at Pangbourne College, Stacey Mackie, Head of Riding, asked Josie what her goals were for the future. Josie's response was bold, yet simple – she wanted to compete in the Olympics.

During her time in Dunbar (Year 7 and 8), Josie won county titles and competed in elite classes very early on. At around Year 10, Josie exceeded county level competitions and progressed onto more challenging adventures. In 2017, she competed in the FEI

European Championships in Slovakia, where she successfully secured a Gold Medal for the young GB team.

Recognising Josie's immense capabilities and talent, the College has continuously strived

to support her throughout her time here. From providing Josie with the flexibility that she needs to train, yet ensuring that she does not miss out on other aspects of college life, such as her studies and time with friends.





# Calum Scott wins 2-year contract with London Irish

In April, we were delighted to announce that Upper Sixth student, Calum Scott, had secured a 2-year professional contract with London Irish Senior Academy. Chief of Port Jackson division Calum was confirmed as captain for the London Irish U18s for the 2021/22 season.

Director of Sport, Sam Hewick, commented on Calum's achievement, "This is an incredible opportunity for Calum, who has been in the London Irish Academy since the age of 13. Initially coming through the London Irish Developing Player Programme, he has also played club rugby for both Tadley RFC and Newbury Blues. Calum's determination has truly paid off and he has also been selected for the England U18 training squad.

As strong advocates of our pupils' success stories, it is crucial that we maintain high levels of support for our pupils, from the sport itself, right through to academics."





# Co-curricular & Community News

## Lower sixth tackle Taking Responsibility

Each year Lower Sixth student embark on a Taking Responsibility Course. Its aims are to provide students with the necessary knowledge and skills for leading the College in their final year.

This year, following 12 months of lockdowns and distant learning, it was great to enjoy face-to-face activities in the extensive grounds of the College, as well as on the River Thames.

The week encompassed an array of activities, from leadership tasks, to community service, to networking exercises. Kicking off

the course was an inspirational and popular talk by Mark Herbet, author of *I am [not] a leader*.

The pupils tested their leadership capabilities through indoor and outdoor challenges, including physical challenges, such as rafting on the river and command stances on Piggeries. As the week progressed, pupils spent time preparing for university applications. Fred Binley (Admissions Department, Southampton University), visited the College to offer guidance on how to write a persuasive personal statement for any university application.

An assortment of activities rounded off the week, with some students undertaking their Duke of Edinburgh's Award Gold practice, whilst others took part in a community action day. Nicknamed 'Ground Force' day, pupils volunteered at St James the Less in Pangbourne, helping the local village church gardening team to achieve at least four days' gardening work in a single day.



Others engaged in a networking exercise where pupils learned how to create a LinkedIn profile and understand the many professional benefits that the social media channel provides. Special thanks to the OPs Phillip Plato and Connor Brown, who helped deliver an insightful afternoon including professional networking advice, how to write the perfect CV and how best to prepare for an interview.





# Double success for Johnny!

Johnny Pride, a pupil in Year 7 has been awarded a Citizenship Award by the UK Education Guide. The award recognises Johnny's fantastic efforts to raise over £10,000 for Parkinson's UK earlier this year.

Johnny organised and undertook the challenge of walking 81 miles from his home to Wembley to coincide with one of the England Euro games. He was inspired to raise money for the charity as his Grandfather had suffered with Parkinson's for 20 years before he died in the Summer of 2021.

His father said: "Johnny is utterly obsessed with football, we went via the Madjeski stadium, where Johnny was presented with a signed first team shirt. We then walked onto Wembley. It was a fab journey, in which he was interviewed most days on various national radio stations. We are enormously proud of what he has achieved"

In addition to the award, it was announced that Johnny has been selected to play in the Gothia Cup Tournament in Gothenburg next summer. Billed as 'one of the most prestigious football tournaments in the world'. Each year, around 1,700 teams from 80 nations take part, playing 4,500 matches on 110 pitches.

Johnny at the Madjeski Stadium



# International Women's Day

Pangbourne marked international Women's Day by celebrating the successes of Pangbournians past and present. To mark International Women's Day in March, we decided to shine a light on the success stories of some of our female Pangbournians.

The week started with Jess Brown (07-12), who is currently studying for a PhD at the EPSRC Centre for Doctoral Training in Metamaterials, part of the Centre for Metamaterial Research and Innovation. Jess shared a written piece about her work and achievements since leaving Pangbourne.

Jess Payne (97-02), a Senior Registrar at the Royal London Hospital, was interviewed by Jenny Clubbe, Housemistress of Illawarra where she spoke about her career in medicine.

Charlotte Butterworth (90-92) was interviewed by our Chief Cadet Captain, Elise. Since leaving Pangbourne she has served in the Royal Navy and is now a successful lawyer, and is also on the Board of Governors.

Georgia Francis (08-13) was interviewed by Richard Follett, Deputy Head, Co-Curricular. Georgia has gone on to achieve great success in Rowing for Great Britain at recent European Championships and World Cup.

Finally, we celebrated Lucia Burić, a current pupil and HMC Scholar at the time, who has enjoyed great success with her musical talents.



Jess Brown (07-12)



Jess Payne (97-02)



Charlotte Butterworth (90-92)



Georgia Francis (08-13)



Lucia Burić (19-21)



# The Falklands 40 years on

By Alexandra Garnier

## Old Pangbournians start a year of events to mark the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the liberation of the Falkland Islands

Not many other schools will choose the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the liberation of the Falkland Islands in June 2022 as a theme for a series of events during this academic year. This is not because what took place in 1982 was insufficiently inspiring. The scale of the achievement should not be underestimated and this was made clear by the eight Pangbourne Falklands War veterans who spoke at the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary event in Portsmouth in October 2021, masterminded by Robin Paine (55-58), Rear Admiral Jeremy Sanders (56-60), Col Ivar Hellberg (56-60), and Commodore Tony Morrow (58-62).

A task force assembled in a matter of weeks; the objective more than 8,000 miles from home and about 4,000 miles from the nearest point of resupply, Ascension Island, to liberate the Falkland Islands from a foreign invader. Further, winter was approaching.

There were an estimated 51 OPs that participated in one

way or another in the Falklands campaign, including one who was living on the islands during his gap year when the Argentine forces invaded. Of the Pangbourne veterans there were eight commanding officers or Masters of major units: HM Ships Avenger and Cardiff, HMS Splendid, SS Canberra, the Naval Party Atlantic Conveyor, OC 3 Commando Logistics Regiment and, back at home in the UK, HMS Centurion and Commander Fleet Operational Sea Training. Strikingly, there were still more Pangbournian officers in key staff roles, for example, Senior Staff Officers to Admiral Lord Fieldhouse and Rear Admiral Woodward. The contribution of another Pangbournian, Ewen Southby-Tailyour, was described by Julian Thompson as 'irreplaceable' due to his significant research of the islands not long before the Argentine invasion.

Is there another school, though, whose alumni were so well

represented not only in raw numbers, as might be true for a school in one of the garrison towns or cities, but also in terms of their influence on the campaign? Almost certainly not.

The College is proud to be the site of the Falkland Islands





Memorial Chapel which was formally opened by Her Majesty The Queen in March 2000. Sara Jones, H Jones's widow, wrote to Anthony Hudson, then Headmaster of Pangbourne College, after it had been dedicated to say, 'The most important thing for me is that the Chapel is to be used by a younger generation and so the memorial is a living thing, not just consigned to the pages of history'. Pangbourne Falklands War veteran Rear Admiral Jeremy

Sanders expressed a similar sentiment in his presentation at the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary event in Portsmouth.

*"Even though the gap between 1982 and today's Pangbournians is greater than the gap between 1982 and the end of the World War 2, our regular use of the Chapel, with its memorial wall, and the annual Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving in June maintains a special connection with those who were involved, and their values."*



ABOVE: memorial cross on top of Mount Tumbledown, Falkland Islands

BELOW: Debris from the Falklands war







OP Reception by the light of the Marie Rose

On the Saturday morning the attendees split into two groups and returned to the Mary Rose Museum for a guided tour of this impressive facility led by a museum volunteer, and a talk about this unique museum given by one of its two architects, OP Chris Brandon (64-68). Chris generously sponsored both the talk and tour and gave a fascinating presentation describing how the museum – which imaginatively and superbly displays many of the 26,000 artefacts retrieved by divers over 11 years alongside the remnants of the Mary Rose – was conceived and has been operated since the hulk of the flagship of

## Gala OP event in Portsmouth

Around one hundred OPs, partners and guests attended a two-day event in Portsmouth in October 2021 to recognise the extraordinary Old Pangbournian contribution.

By Robin Knight

The programme began in the Princess Royal Gallery of the Historic Dockyard on the

afternoon of Friday 15 October with a film and slide presentation given by eight OPs involved in the conflict, led by Jeremy Sanders (56-60), Staff Officer Operations to the commander of the Task Force Battle Group, and Ivar Hellberg (56-60) who led the Royal Marines Commando Logistics Regiment. Also contributing were Capt Stephen Taylor (55-60), Lt Cdr Clive Carrington-Wood (72-77), Cdr Andrew Gordon Lennox (62-65), Cdr Robert Hamilton (60-65), Rear Adm Mike Harris (54-59), and Dick Borwick (66-70) for the Merchant Navy. This was followed later in the evening by a Cocktail Party reception in a darkened gallery overlooking the Mary Rose ship in the nearby Mary Rose Museum.

The Gala Dinner in the Copenhagen Room of HMS Nelson



Thomas Garnier toasts the OP contribution





King Henry VIII's fleet was lifted out of the Solent in 1982.

In the evening, a black-tie champagne reception was held in the Copenhagen Room of HMS Nelson, the shore establishment headquarters of the Royal Navy in Portsmouth. At this reception Robin Paine singled out two OPs for a special toast – Courtney Edenborough (45–48) who was celebrating his 91st birthday, and Polly Sturgess (00–02) who was the youngest OP present. At 7:30pm guests sat down in the impressive Wardroom for a three-course dinner. Grace was said by Richard Shuttleworth (57–62), the Loyal Toast was proposed by Tony Morrow who also read out a special message

from HM The Queen to the OP Society on the occasion of the dinner, and a Toast to the Falklands Veterans was proposed by Thomas Garnier, the Head.

The Head went on to describe the relevance of the Falklands campaign, and OPs prominent role in it, to the school today. He also highlighted the important role played in the life of the College by the iconic Falkland Islands Memorial Chapel, and gave an update to OPs on the challenges facing the College as it emerges from the prolonged hiatus of the pandemic era. His speech was followed by a strong and often amusing response on behalf of the Falkland Veterans by Captain Martin

Reed who was Chief Officer on SS Canberra commanded by OP Denis Scott-Masson (44–46) during the conflict.

That concluded the formal part of the programme. Many of those attending took advantage of free time during the two days to explore the Historic Dockyard and Portsmouth and to take a ferry ride to the Isle of Wight. Throughout, this imaginative and memorable gathering was characterised by a spirit of remembrance, nostalgia and friendship among OPs and the other attendees which spanned the generations and everyone's subsequent experiences in life during the succeeding 40 years.





# King's Gold Medal 1936 returns

By Robin Knight

A group of Old Pangbournians, led by OP Society Chairman Phillip Plato (73-77), have ensured that a unique King's Gold Medal awarded in 1936 to the then Chief of the College George Launchbury Bown (32-36) will be returning to Pangbourne College on permanent loan in the near future.

R. P. Carter, R. J. Grant-Sturgis, J. O. L. Shelton, R. E. Bradshaw, A. D. Mitchell.



C. G. S. Hodgkinson, G. L. Bown, G. F. Cleveland (Captain), J. H. Groom, R. H. N. Barker.  
*Absent—N. U. Hussey.*  
FIRST XI, 1936.

George Bown in the Cricket XI in 1936

The medal, the only one awarded at the College during the brief 326-day reign of King Edward VIII, came up for auction at an international coins, medals and watches sale organised by Dix Noon Webb on September 7th 2021 together with an Elder Brethren of Trinity House gold watch, also presented to Bown.

The medal and watch combined had been predicted to fetch between £4,000–£5,000.

Following substantial pre-sale interest, several bidders contested the auction. Ultimately, the Plato group of OPs prevailed at a cost of £21,896.

Once agreement is reached with the College over the terms of the memorabilia's display and future ownership, it is hoped that the medal will form a centrepiece in a revamped permanent exhibition at the school.



The unique King's Gold Medal presented in 1936

# to Pangbourne

At the time of the presentation on Founders' Day 1936, Edward VIII was five months away from his abdication. As Prince of Wales, he had visited The Nautical College once and presented the inaugural Gold Medal awarded by his father King George V in 1927 when he also named the new main access into the school from Bere Court Road as the Prince of Wales Drive. Accordingly this Gold Medal aside from being the only one issued under the reign of Edward VII reflects the historic link between the Royal Family and the College.

George Bown had an outstanding career at the NCP, especially on the sports field. He was captain of the hockey, cricket, fencing, boxing, squash and fives teams and also was vice-captain of the successful 1935 rugby 1st XV. In the summer term 1936 he headed both the batting (average 57) and bowling (average 14) averages and opened both the batting and bowling.

At the NCP he passed the Civil Service Commission examination and entered what was then the Royal Military College at Sandhurst in late 1936. Commissioned into the Royal Gloucestershire Regiment in 1938. He transferred to the Indian Army with the rank of Captain in April 1940 and returned to the British Army in 1946 by which time he was a Major.

Bown had little or no contact with the NCP after leaving so details of his career are sparse. According to a partial family history it appears that he remained in India for a time after Partition and Indian independence, returning to the UK in 1952 with his wife Evelyn (who he had married in Caversham in 1950) on board P&O's SS Strathnaver liner. In England he took a job as a sales representative for a firm of paint manufacturers. He died in a motor accident in 1958 aged 40, leaving no children.

A relative, a half-brother who served in the Royal Navy for 13 years, sent his son Charlie Bown (73-75) to Pangbourne College.



The gold watch presented by the Elder Brethren of Trinity House



# Colin Hearn

# Outstanding



Colin Hearn on Founders' Day 2021

In July, in recognition of his outstanding contribution to College life, retiring CCF Contingent Commander Colin Hearn (2010-21) was presented with a pair of Oakley cycling glasses as a memento of his 11 years at Pangbourne College by the Head, Mr Thomas Garnier. Well known for his latest hobby, long cycle rides, it is no surprise that when asked what he would like for a leaving present he chose this gift.

Corporal Dan McMeekin and the Sixth Form CCF cadets also purchased and presented Contingent Commander Hearn with some engraved port glasses as part of their appreciation for all he has done in their time at the College. Among recent highlights has been winning the drill section of the Sir Steuart Pringle competition at Lympstone.

Colin Hearn joined Pangbourne eleven years ago after a successful career in the Royal Marines. One of only thirteen Warrant Officers in the Corps, it became quickly apparent why he had been one of them. At a gathering to mark Colin's retirement, Thomas Garnier said, "He is, I think, among the most 'can do' people I have ever known. Super reliable, impeccably organised, always ready to help, he has improved every area of College life with which he has been involved - the CCF, performing two people's roles as Senior Staff Instructor and Contingent Commander; with Mr Crossley, developing our provision for D of E and the Llangorse experience; setting standards on the Parade Ground and introducing the march on from both sides for The Queen's visit in 2017 and subsequent Founders' Day parades. Those are just the things in his job description, but he took on much more.

He has led expeditions to the Galapagos, Nabugabo, the Falkland Islands and the Alps in France. He has also overseen the school's ceremonial tradition and created unique parades for Her Majesty The Queen and His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh in May 2017 as well as Founders' Day 2021, among others.

# Contribution

He has organised the colour party at the Annual Seafarers' Service at St Paul's Cathedral. He has led mountain bike trips to North Wales. He has supported Mr Andy Crossley with the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme.

He has played a key role in developing our links with the Nabugabo Community Learning Centre in Uganda and suggested that instead of very expensive World Challenge trips, which he had led to South East Asia, Africa and South America, he could organise our own at lower cost to Nabugabo but which would provide a much richer experience for our Sixth Formers and real benefit to the children there. They did, thanks to the rigour of his planning and his leadership. The ski trips, too, benefited from his organisation and commitment. I am told that on one occasion, when a pupil did not return with her group at lunch time and other staff started calling lift operators or planned to go up and ski back down the route, he ran up the mountain in his ski boots and was the first

to find her. He is unbelievably competent, but also has a sense of adventure and fun.

He is constantly coming up with new ideas and initiatives which carry others along with him. Early morning runs for staff at 06:30 were surprisingly well attended, even in winter, and each week he would have worked out a slightly different route; more recently, he has embraced cycling and I don't think it is any surprise that the number of cyclists in the Common Room has increased – most of us are left trailing in his wake and his regular weekend rides, several hours long and at an invariably high average speed, leave us feeling inadequate but aspiring to be as fit as he is when we retire.

He will be embarrassed to hear me say it, but Mr Hearn is someone who is inspiring. He was intending to retire last year but seeing that we had not been able to identify a suitable replacement, he offered to stay on. Such selflessness was typical of him. We are all glad he did so,

wish him well as he retires and will be following his adventures on Strava!

Mr Hearn is a legend and has been a very popular member of staff. He has brought inspiration to all that he has done and has enriched the lives of so many Pangbournians in his time at the school."



A presentation to thank Colin for his years of dedicated service



# A titan who touched the

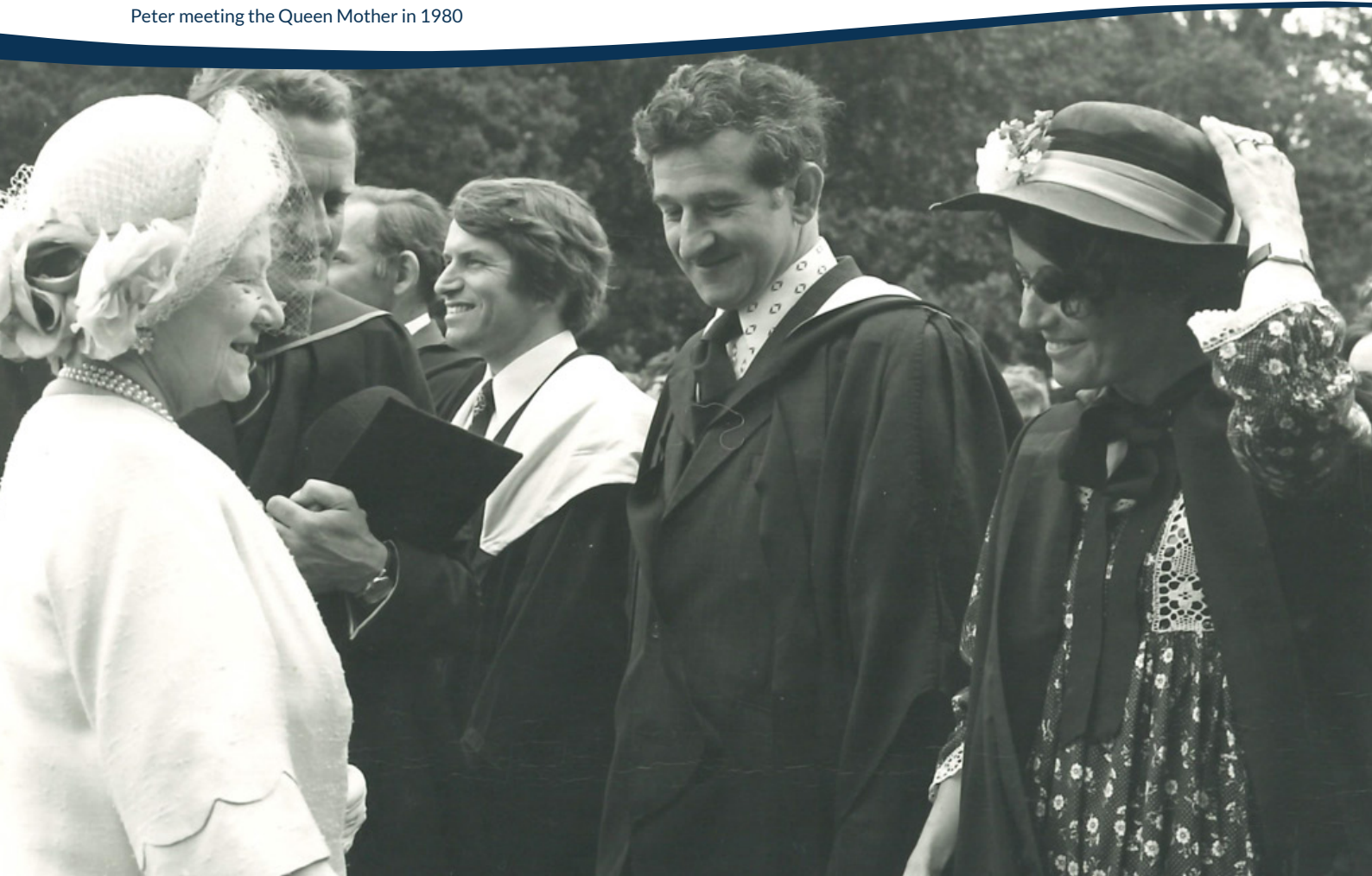
Pangbourne has lost “a titan who touched the lives of so many,” as Patrick Derham (73-78) put it.

Peter Politzer passed away in January 2022 aged 85. He joined the Nautical College, Pangbourne in 1964, taught History at the school for 97 terms, was Illawarra Housemaster for 15 years, Second Master 1984-94 and 1st VIII coach and mentor to generations of Pangbourne rowers.

Peter was born in 1936, educated at Blundell's School, Devon and at Trinity Hall, Cambridge where he first rowed. After leaving Cambridge, he taught at Milton Abbey in Dorset before answering an advertisement from Pangbourne for a History teacher.

Tributes poured in after Peter's death demonstrating the significant impact he made on the lives of colleagues and pupils alike. Gerry Pike (CR 86-14) wrote: “Peter was a remarkable man who made an enormous contribution to Pangbourne over a long period of time. He left a lasting imprint on those he mentored and inspired, not only by the sheer force of his considerable personality but

Peter meeting the Queen Mother in 1980



# lives of so many

because he brought a manifest integrity and a rare capacity to motivate.

Peter's professional persona was formidable: as Second Master he made Pangbourne run on time. This was not simply a matter of enforcing a daily routine efficiently but, more profoundly, because his meticulous engagement set exacting standards and required total commitment. His energy seemed indefatigable as he whirled between administration, house-mastering, teaching, coaching and tutoring, always in the same galvanizing style. In this respect he was a force of nature. He could be famously brusque when dissatisfied: his peppery red notes to errant staff became the stuff of legend, but he was always quick to recognize the potential in others and he gave his life to nurturing them.

Underneath this robust, meticulous style, typical of much of the best school-mastering in its day, lay deep pastoral instincts, sensitivity, warmth and wisdom. If he expected a lot of you, he

gave everything in return. As you got closer, a mischievous sense of humour became apparent.

The flowering of previously unpromising individuals that this emphasis on motivation frequently produced came to infuse the very ethos of the College and has been its touchstone ever since. It was also reflected in the rising standard of College sport; this was truly the age when Pangbourne became accustomed to "punching above its weight" as Peter's natural competitiveness helped to raise the bar. He and Peter Points enjoyed a ready rapport, and together they provided an inspirational and irresistible leadership team. For many of us who worked closely with Peter, he came to embody the values and standards that set Pangbourne apart and helped to change the College decisively for the better."

Ian Busby (CR 72-96), Peter's teaching colleague and close friend for many years, summed up: "Arriving in 1972, I quickly became aware of the

importance of Peter's role. As senior Housemaster, he was clearly Peter Points' right-hand man. What struck me was his integrity, dedication, practicality, loyalty and identification with Peter Points' vision and aspirations, combined with a restraining caution as he helped steady the Headmaster's plans.

*"What struck me was his integrity, dedication, practicality, loyalty and identification with Peter Points' vision and aspirations"*

His tight discipline, and the feeling he generated that Illawarra, away from the main College campus, was special – "Illawarrans never come second" was his mantra – left behind a competitive, responsible, caring ethos for me when I took over from him."

Rowing was an important part of his life. Reverend John Spriggs wrote: "Having taken up the sport at Cambridge, Peter settled into a career of coaching that saw success not only with the 1st VIII but also with the British junior rowing team where he set up the



selection process and became a wise father-figure. He also served on the National Schools Regatta Committee, was Chairman of the Junior Rowing Commission and for many years was race secretary of the Pangbourne Sculls event.”

David Rendle (73–78, CR 91–12) wrote: “As my rowing coach through to the First VIII, Peter’s competitive nature attuned with my own will to win. I benefited greatly from his no-nonsense approach to hard training. One memory stands out. I recall arriving at the National Schools Regatta in 1976 with a very sore large blister on the sole of my foot. No problem, Peter administered none too gentle and quite unsympathetic treatment with a needle.”

Many years later, Peter collared me on a towpath and insisted that I fill a Geography teaching

vacancy and coach the First VIII...The 1992 Henley win was in large part built upon the Politzer legacy. For me, Peter will be remembered as a titan of Pangbourne rowing and as a formidably good history teacher.

*“His energy seemed indefatigable as he whirled between administration, house-mastering, teaching, coaching and tutoring, always in the same galvanizing style. In this respect he was a force of nature.”*

Richard Hamilton (87–92) noted: “There is always that one person in one’s life who has such an impact that it changes the course of your life forever. That person for me was Peter Politzer. In 1989, he sat me down and said I’m sending you to the



Peter at a Leander reunion

Junior Rowing Trials. As we approached Peterborough in his car, still having no clue what I was going to, I asked him ‘What do I do?’ His answer was straight forward: “Keep pulling hard until someone tells you to stop.” I did just that, and ended up rowing in the Olympic Games in 1996. He not only changed my direction, but instilled in me the belief that any challenge was achievable.”

Phillip Plato (70–77), Chairman of the OP Society added: “As Captain of Boats in 1977, I had considerable interaction with Peter. Although I did not appreciate it at the time, I learned later what an influence he had on the sport nationally. He was awarded the Amateur Rowing Association (now British Rowing) Gold Medal of honour for services to the sport.”

1971 winning PE crew



# OP Merchandise

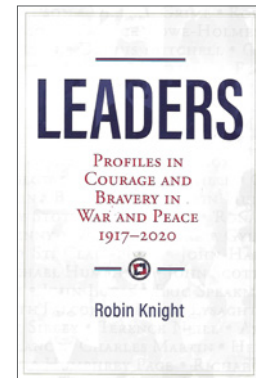


OP Shield - £40

OP Silk Bow Tie - £30



OP Silk Tie - £30



Leaders  
by Robin Knight - £20



Cufflinks Navy  
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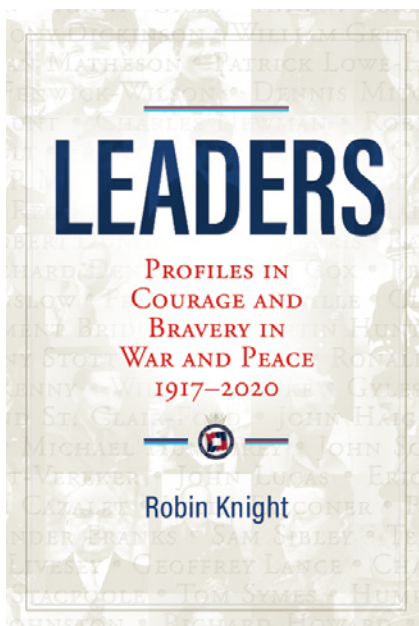


# Leaders by Robin Knight

Reviewed by  
Gerry Pike (CR86-14)

There is much talk these days about “leadership” or perhaps a signal lack of it.

But what do we really mean by “leadership”? It can prove an elusive term to define and we are unlikely to all agree. Context matters hugely. War tends to encourage certain types of leadership, the challenges of peacetime rather different ones. Individual nations and cultures, let alone schools, have historically tended to be identified with very different styles of leader too, though we should beware



Leaders by Robin Knight (published in 2021  
by Unicorn Publishing Group)



Robin Knight talking at the launch.

stereotypes. But to allow that leadership takes many forms and that it can be a dynamic, even problematical concept, is not to subside into absolute relativism, still less cynicism about the term. Below the surface it is about identity: what sort of people have we been and who do we want to be?

In fraught times these are seldom easy questions to address. In this sense Robin Knight's latest book is timely. Initially its focus may seem quite narrow, parochial even, as he concentrates on the extraordinary exploits of Old Pangbournians, in peace as well as in war. Take a step

back, however, and the universal themes become apparent. What is courage? How does it differ from bravery? Are we born with these qualities or are they shaped at school or forged by the experiences of life? Can there be such a thing as an “unlikely hero”? Does heroism necessarily involve self-denying service to some great cause and the sacrifice of one's own wellbeing? Is courage the preserve of the few or a source of inspiration to the many? These are sorts of essential questions Robin raises by telling the inspiring tales he has encountered in the annals of the College.

In what senses are the individuals whose exploits are described in this book “leaders? Some are so, in the literal sense: Admirals, Air Commodores, Squadron Commanders, Brigadiers, Captains on land, on sea, and below sea, all formally responsible for leading large groups of men and women. This, by all accounts they did with quite remarkably consistent distinction. Others led in a classically heroic sense, acting with such courage and honour that they inspired those around them, usually unconsciously and often self-effacingly. Indeed, their abiding modesty for the most part seems to have been unaffected by the many gongs, medals, mentions in despatches, or the admiration of colleagues they earned. When pressed as to why or how they had behaved with such courage and selflessness, their replies are simple: we were just doing our duty. Often it was a matter of sheer instinct.

Importantly, Robin has looked beyond war to find his material, including chapters right up to the Covid present, and on the remarkable sportspeople, who in peacetime tend to become our icons. It makes for an action-packed if humbling read. So what general themes stand out?



Surgeon Lt Phillip Evans, sketched in hospital by the artist William Drink in 1943

The first is the sheer breadth of activity. You will find many branches of human endeavour here: the armed forces, of course, but alongside them the peacekeepers, the medics combatting Covid, the charity workers and sporting stars too.

The second is how individualist many were, maverick even, which seems paradoxical given the strict codes and hierarchies they often worked in. Whilst a sense of adventure or bloody-mindedness could look like recklessness at times, generally it was complemented by self-discipline and determination on an epic scale: just read the incredible “Smiley”s special operations in Crete and Albania or of the cultured, scholarly charismatic Grecophile, Mike Cumberlege, who defiantly endured two grueling years

of solitary confinement in Sachsenhausen concentration camp before being shot by the SS. or Richard Pool who survived three years as a POW working on the infamous Burma Road. Some found a natural niche in particularly hazardous occupations: in submarines or bomb disposal for instance or in Covid wards. Then one encounters the enterprise of George Chatterton in helping to



Sir Frank Hopkins in the FAA Museum





Robin signing Mr Vousden's book

create the strategic Glider Pilot Regiment, or the dogged courage of Colin Hodgkinson, one of only two legless Allied pilots in World War 2. Or one can also cite the less hair-raising but still rare sporting exploits of Mike “the bike” Hailwood and other OPs covered in the book.

The third theme is the appetite for adventure which many shared, buttressed by quite extraordinary powers of endurance and resolve. These

qualities seem to have overridden any concern for self or personal safety. There are some quite staggering examples of this throughout the book. One which stuck in my mind was that of John Mackenzie, at 29 the youngest Army Brigadier, whose heroic stand against an entire Panzer division echoes Thermopylae. That this capacity for self-sacrifice does not wither with time is well illustrated by the example of John Faber, who at 84, gave his own life in rescuing a drowning 13-year-old at Littlehampton. Nor was there glorying in war: As Admiral Peter Gray put it crisply: “it was a dreadful time”.

This summary skims the surface of a book packed with instances of heroism and inspirational

conduct. All the individuals concerned were “Pangbournian” in that they attended the College, some albeit briefly. How far their experience there proved formative, character-wise, is hard to quantify objectively. Some were in no doubt. As Richard Hamilton put it: “Pangbourne not only taught leadership but, more importantly, how to be part of a team. It taught me to ...to set a goal and to go all out to achieve that goal.... and to never give up”. The exploits of current and future students will probably be inspirational in less martial ways but the ethos expressed in the Flag Values embodies the essential continuity that characterizes a school with a unique and distinguished tradition of service.



Andrew ‘Bart’ Simpson en route to Olympic Gold at Beijing 2008

# Q&A's

"Leaders," written by ROBIN KNIGHT (56-61), was published in 2021. In 15 chapters it describes examples of courage, bravery and leadership in war and peace by OPs between 1917-2020. Below, Robin answers questions about the book.

**Q: How did 'Leaders' come about?**

A: I realised, when writing a chapter about OPs in the Centenary history of the College (published in 2016), just how many extraordinary and varied stories there were waiting to be researched and retold to a new generation.

**Q: How did you set about unearthing the mass of detail and first-person material that underpins the book?**

A: I had a head start from my previous work; and there is a mass of detail in The Log and the many books by OPs I have collected. One piece of research often led to other sources such as specialist archives, museum collections and family papers. Some of those in the book I knew personally, which helped. To give an example, Roger Lane-Nott, who commanded a nuclear submarine during the Falklands campaign, sent me a memoir he had written for his family.

**Q: You write in the Acknowledgments that the book has strong foundations – the work of others?**

A: There are a number of books by and about OPs that are outstanding. I would highlight Roger Hill's memoir Destroyer Captain; Richard Pool's memorable Course for Disaster; Colin Hodgkinson's frank autobiography Best Foot Forward; and a work by the writer Fred Majdalany called The Monastery, which superbly profiles John Mackenzie's key role in the capture of Monte Cassino in 1944. If you haven't read any of these books, you should!

**Q: The structure of the book is clear. How did it emerge?**

A: The opening essay titled 'What is Courage?' actually emerged at the end when I realised that the book needed more in-depth context. Given the Nautical College's emphasis, there was bound to be a strong naval character. Even so, I was surprised by how many outstanding WW2 destroyer and submarine commanders had come from the school. Having separated the Services, there had to be chapters on the Army and the Flyers – RAF and Fleet Air Arm. Post-WW2, it was a matter

of separating peace from war.

The three individuals featured in separate chapters and the chapter on the George Cross and George Medal recipients selected themselves. As for the chapter on sports heroes, I simply felt the need for a change of pace and focus, particularly as Pangbourne has produced some exceptional sporting icons down the years.

**Q: The book includes a number of striking illustrations – for example, the paintings of OPs done during WW2 by the war artist William Dring. How were they unearthed?**

A: Well, society has changed a lot so you have to put that question in context. The generation produced by a very young, new school in the 1920s and 1930s clearly was exceptional. Mostly, this comes through in their wartime records, but not always. Since 1945 I would agree with Gerry Pike (in his review of Leaders) that there is a strong appetite for adventure and also an underlying respect for life which often is displayed through leadership in difficult circumstances.



# Bursar's Report

The impact of COVID-19 continued to overshadow the year, with another closure of the College for most of the Lent term.

The Government decided to cancel exams for the second year running and use Teacher Assessed Grades instead. The College gathered evidence from a broad range of assessments, including teacher-set examinations. The academic management team also carried out a rigorous moderation process before submission. We were very pleased that the exam boards did not alter the grades which had been submitted to them and our A Level, BTEC and GCSE results days in August saw our students being justly rewarded for their hard work over the last two difficult years. At A Level, the percentage of grades calculated as A\*- A was 45%, evidence of the wealth of talented students in the year's Upper Sixth. The vast majority of the cohort will be progressing to their firm choice universities which include Cambridge and other Russell Group universities including Durham, Edinburgh, Exeter and Bath. At GCSE, results overall were almost as good as last year, reflecting a cohort with a strong top end but one which overall was not quite

as strong. The overall pass rate (grade 4 or higher) was 96.7% and the average number of passes per candidate was 8.79.

The Governors remain resolute that the College will continue to select pupils on character and aptitude for an education at Pangbourne College, rather than purely on academic ability. These results demonstrate the Headmaster's intent to increase the College's academic rigour. Given the broad range of academic abilities within the

School, these were extremely pleasing results. In terms of outdoor pursuits, 13 Gold, 34 Silver and 122 Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Awards were completed by Pangbourne pupils. A number of significant improvements were made to the College's facilities during the year. The new astro carpet replacement was completed over the summer, as was the creation of a new resilient fibre network around the College. A large area opposite the College's

Income	2021 (£'000)	2020 (£'000)
Net school fees and other school income:	10,277	9,753
Trading and other income:	571	601
Grants:	208	491
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,056</b>	<b>10,858</b>
Expenditure		
School:		
Teaching	5,174	5,535
Welfare	1,472	1,309
Premises	1,312	1,255
Support	1,693	1,663
On generating income:		
Trading	185	137
Finance	102	96
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,935</b>	<b>9,995</b>

The Governors of the College report a pre-depreciation surplus of £1,610k (2020: £1,349k).



main building was cleared as preparation for the creation of a cafe facility which will be located in the building currently occupied by the School Shop.

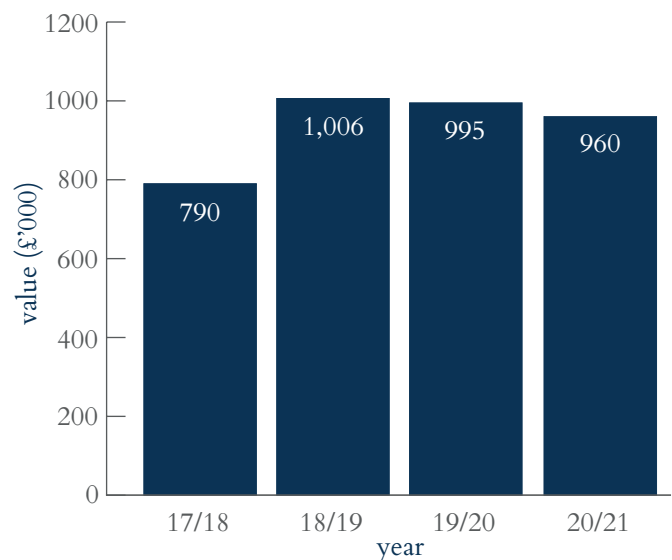
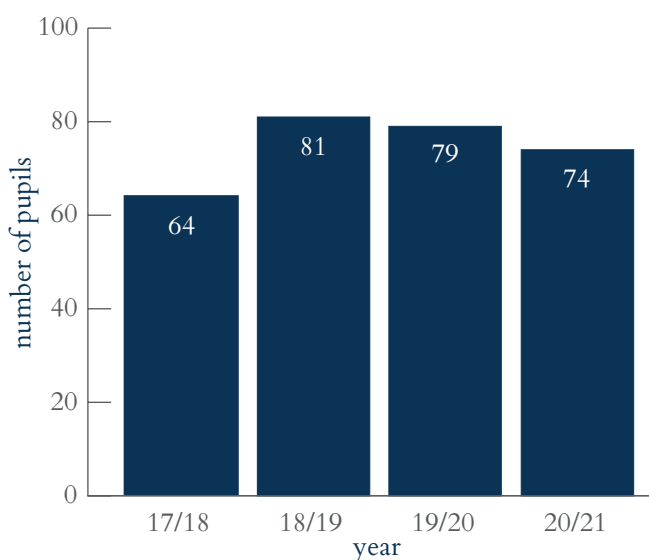
The College currently receives no additional funding towards its charitable activities, which are the education of young men and women. Unlike many larger schools, any financial support that is provided to pupils and parents represents a reduction in income for the College. This impacts both the funds available for operational expenditure,

including maintenance, but also investment for future capital projects. Additionally and most importantly, it limits the financial support that the College is able to provide to parents and pupils.

Over many years the College has awarded a substantial number of bursaries (means-tested) and scholarships (based on merit) each year. The Governing Body's policy is to move to a situation where the majority of the College's fee assistance is given to those most in need. To that end, automatic fee discounts for new

scholars now carry no financial award. In the financial year 2020/21, the College provided means-tested support for pupils whose parents could not afford the fees worth £960,184 or 7.6% of gross fee income. Six pupils received support worth at least 100% of fees, including 2 via HMC Projects to students from Central and Eastern Europe, and 1 via the Royal National Children's Springboard Foundation. Additionally, the equivalent of £136,192 was given in discounts to children of parents serving in the Armed Forces.

#### Means-Tested Bursaries:







# Development Report



## From the Head

### **A School, A Business, or a Charity?**

Pangbourne College is first and foremost a school, with the fundamental aim of providing an excellent all-round education to boys and girls which extend well beyond the classroom. Of course it includes the co-curricular aspects, but a major focus here is on development of personal character, to include values and a community-minded outlook. We wish to send our young-people out into the world ready to make a positive contribution to society, and so what they learn in their time at Pangbourne is very much about developing the skills they will need to do that.





We are also a business. As such, we have to make sure that our income covers our costs and that we can continue to provide the best possible services to our ‘customers’. Unlike for-profit organisations, any surplus we make goes straight back into the College to improve and upgrade facilities, recruit and retain the best possible staff, and create a nurturing environment for our pupils. Like many businesses we are faced with a number of rising costs on multiple fronts, and this is one reason we are now seeking to diversify our income streams. As such, we are creating and launching an updated Development Programme later

in the year, which over the coming years will seek gifts from throughout the Pangbourne community – of time, expertise and financial donations.

Finally, we are a registered charity. The charitable sector has received some negative attention in the past few years, and this is one of the reasons that new regulations and restrictions on charities came into force. At the same time, the vast majority of charities are simply trying their best to achieve their worthy aims. Pangbourne College is among that majority, and indeed one of the guiding principles of the Development Programme will

be to be honest, transparent and ethical about our fundraising. We will only raise funds for projects and facilities that further our educational aims.

The long term aim of the College remains untouched: to become the best small co-educational boarding and day school in the country. I am sure that with the ongoing support of our community we will be able to achieve this, through the provision of excellent all-round education, an efficiently run business, and a charity which benefits both our immediate community and the wider local area.



# From the Head of Development:

My first year back at Pangbourne, having been a pupil here from 1996-2001, has felt like a welcome return home. In spite of starting during a national lockdown it has been a busy year, packed full of opportunities to reconnect with old friends, and meet so many OPs, parents and POPs.



Despite COVID and an uncertain year, you have continued to support Pangbourne, for which we are extremely grateful. Over the last 12 months Pangbourne has deferred expenditure, particularly on facilities and non-essential projects, however, generosity from donors has meant that families who have been struggling financially because of COVID could be helped.

To everyone that has supported Pangbourne in the past year, thank you, however I do believe there is much more that can be done. In order to achieve the aims of the Development Plan, launching later in the year, we will need more support.

## Giving Day 2022

In October this year, we will be launching our first virtual fundraising campaign, bringing together the whole Pangbournian Community. The whole community will be invited to participate in a 24 hour event, in which we will aim to raise awareness, engagement and donations for the College's fundraising aims.

## What is the Development Office?

In 2016, Pangbourne College established its Development Office. The function of Development is to engender

life-long interest in the future and health of the school through participation in events, access to work opportunities for current pupils, and to secure financial donations and legacies where appropriate.

Philanthropically-minded Old Pangbournians, parents, former staff, governors and friends will be asked to help current and future generations of pupils to have the same advantages that they had, by donating to the Bursary and Scholarship Fund. This will then help to liberate surplus trading income to support the needs of the College.

## Looking forward: The power of bursaries

Bursaries obviously make an enormous difference to the recipients and their families. According to the Royal SpringBoard Foundation, a charity which places hundreds of bursary pupils in boarding schools, 92% of the beneficiaries stated that the bursary had changed their life for the better. As well as benefiting individual recipients, bursaries can also play an important role in increasing the diversity of the whole pupil community.

The power of bursaries to transform individual lives and the College community as a whole are the main drivers for Pangbourne's ambitious plans to significantly increase the number of bursaries in the years ahead.

### Looking forward: Legacies

In recent years we have been fortunate to receive two unexpected gifts totalling over £300,000 in the form of legacies: one from an OP, the other from an Honorary OP. Their gifts will have a lasting impact on generations of Pangbournians.

In 2017, as part of the Centenary celebrations, a new programme was introduced for any member of the Pangbourne community who wishes to remember Pangbourne College in their will. The Sir Phillip Devitt Society (or Devitt Society for short) will be open to all those who chose to leave a legacy to Pangbourne and signal this intention to the College Development Office. The name of the society is in recognition of the contribution of the Devitt family, who through their own commitment to the school built a foundation which is now in its second century.

The two founding members of the Devitt Society are both influential members of the Old Pangbournian Society. They

have given vast amounts of time and energy to Pangbourne over the last few years: OP Society President Mr Mark Dumas (64-68) and Honorary Vice President Mr Richard Shuttleworth (57-62). Both were asked about their motivation behind leaving a bequest to the College.

"I got involved again with Pangbourne when my own sons were accepted, and have since been Chair, Secretary and President of the OP Society," says Richard Shuttleworth. "To me the College has managed to keep the best of old values yet become a modern institution, thus remembering it in my will seems like the right thing to do. I hope others will be encouraged to do the same."

Mark Dumas says, "I hope others might feel that some of their success in life is due to their time at Pangbourne. I think Pangbourne deserves some of the credit, and that is why the College will feature in my will."

For more information, or to discuss any aspect of leaving a legacy, please get in contact.

Tim Hamilton  
Head of Development  
e: [development@pangbourne.com](mailto:development@pangbourne.com)  
t: 0118 976 6697

## Can you help?

### Gold Medal Exhibition

As part of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations, the College is putting together an exhibition showing the long association with the Royal Family.

We are seeking a medal showing King George VI (1936-52) to complete our collection of Gold Medals for the display.

If you would be willing to loan the medal to the College, please contact Tim Hamilton.





# Volunteers 2021

Thank you to the following volunteers, who kindly donated their time and expertise throughout the year. While we have listed all those volunteers we know about, we do apologise if any names are inadvertently omitted.

Governors	
Mr Patrick Roberts MBE – Chair	OP
Mr Rohan Batra	OP
Mrs Charlotte Butterworth	OP
Mr Patrick Derham	OP
Mr Rhidian Llewellyn	OP
The Reverend Andrew Bond	Former Parent
Mr David Mullins	Former Parent
Mrs Sally Rossiter	Former Parent
The Reverend Mark Bodeker	
Mrs Tracy Brooks	
Mr Desmond Devitt	
Dr Matilda Oppenheimer	
Mrs Perena Shryane	
Mrs Rebecca Tear	

Current and Former Parents	
Mr Matt Allen	Mrs Heather Lewis
Mr Jason Alexander	Mrs Sarah Masters
Mrs Jo Baker	Mr Paul Nelson
Mrs Karen Bonnett	Mrs Jules Poole
Mrs Judy Bromfield	Mr Nigel Rossiter
Mrs Charlotte Butterworth	Mrs Lucy Shepherd
Mrs Sue Carpenter	Mrs Caroline Skidmore
Mrs Sadie Clare	Mr Guy Slocombe
Mrs Tessa Costin	Mr Richard Stone
Mr Matt Evans	Mrs Leigh-Anne Swire-Thompson
Mrs Beth Farrow	
Mrs Linda-Jean Ford	Mrs Joanne Vousden
Mrs Alex Garnier	Mr Charles Walters
Mr Jonathan Hebbes	Mrs Kelley Waters
Mrs Caroline Home	Mrs Jayne Wells
Mrs Yuk Keane	Mrs Corry Wilde
Ms Candida Kennedy	Mrs Abi Williamson

Old Pangbournians	
Mr Mike Askwith	Mr Adam Lewis
Mr James Bamforth	Mr Rhidian Llewellyn
Mr Robin Batt	Mr James Mackenzie
Mr Edward Bence	Mr Shaun Maynard
Mr Rohan Batra	Mr David Metcalfe
Mr Charles Bown	Mr James Minter
Mr Conor Brown	Mrs Clare Morphy
Mrs Charlotte Butterworth	Mr Tony Morrow
Mr James Canham-Ash	Mr David Nicholson
Mr Louis Carrel	Mr Michael Nicholson
Maj Gen Copinger-Symes	Mr Andrew Nzeyi
Mr Patrick Derham	Mr Charles Parry
Mr William Donaldson	Mr Brian Painting
Ms Tarka Duhalde	Mr Charles Pettit
Mr Mark Dumas	Mr Roger Pike
Mr Courtney Edenborough	Mr Phillip Plato
Mr Paddy Eveleigh	Mr Geoff Popple
Mr John Fisher	Mr Geoff Rae
Mr Nick Gillet	Mr Merrick Rayner
Mr Alex Heaton	Mr Patrick Roberts
Mr Wayne Heyland	Mr Jeremy Sanders
Mr Dan Holloway	Mr Charlie Shillito
Mr Colin Howard	Mr Richard Shuttleworth
Mr Lawrence Howard	Mr Andrew Scott-Priestley
Mr Theodore Isaacs	Mr William Skinner
Mr Graham Jex	Mr Joe Spencer
Mr Michael Keigwin	Mr Andrew Sumner
Mr Peter Kewish	Mr Gyles Thornley
Mr Robin Knight	Mr Andy Wells
Mr Paul Lawrence	Mr Ian Williams



The Devitt Legacy Society is named after the remarkable Chairman of Governors, Sir Phillip Devitt (1876-1947). No single individual in the history of the Nautical College Pangbourne did more to ensure its character, survival and growth, or to guarantee the national reputation it had gained.

We have all undoubtedly benefited from the generosity of previous benefactors, starting of course with the Devitt Family. But benefaction should be a continuing process and leaving a legacy to Pangbourne is an excellent way to ensure our Founder's vision can continue for the benefit of future generations of Pangbournians.

*"Most of us won't be here for the College's Bicentenary, but I do believe it is our duty to make sure there is one."*

Roger Lane-Nott, Former Chair of Governors and Old Pangbournian.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Devitt Legacy Society, please contact  
Tim Hamilton,  
Head of Development,  
e: [development@pangbourne.com](mailto:development@pangbourne.com)  
or t: 0118 976 6697



To find out  
more scan here





# In Memoriam

The following is a summary of obituaries published in 2021, written and collated by Robin Knight. Fuller accounts may be read on the Pangbournian Portal.

## 1930s

### **PRESTON, THOMAS H.B.**

(33-34), later known as Sir Thomas Houstoun-Boswall, died in May 1982 aged 63, the OP Society learned in 2021. During the Second World War, he served in the RAFVR, became a Pilot Officer and fought in the Middle East and the UK. A businessman, he was chairman of HB Properties and a director of several companies including Southern Television.

### **CONNELL, ROBERT**

**BEATTIE** (36-38) died in an air crash in July 1951, the OP Society learned in 2021. He was a Flt Lt RAF who had been awarded the DFC in 1946. Connell joined the RAFVR in 1941, flying Hawker Hurricanes and the Supermarine Spitfire. Early in 1942 he was sent to the Far East to resist the Japanese offensive in Burma. Connell flew defensive patrols during the retreat to India, took part in the siege of Imphal and supported Orde Wingate's Chindit expedition. In late-1944, 17 Squadron played a leading role in taking on the Japanese air force.

Connell is recorded as having shot down two Japanese aircraft as well as two trains and other transports during the advance on Rangoon. The Citation for his DFC states: "This officer has shown outstanding keenness and has set an exceptionally high standard of flying and navigation in the face of arduous conditions."

After the war, Connell remained in the RAF, serving with 17 Squadron until it was disbanded in 1951. On July 12, 1951 he was test flying Hawker Sea Fury TF897 from Farnborough airfield to RAF Tangmere, "investigating trim changes with different speed and power settings." The aircraft in question had twice struck the ground in "hard" landings but had been repaired. This time it sustained engine failure and



Robert Connell (36-38) - Flt Lt RAF

stalled approaching Tangmere, disintegrating on impact with the ground and killing Connell.

**WERE, VAL** (38-41) died on May 1 2019, aged 96. As far as is known, he is the only New Zealand-born person ever to attend Pangbourne. He was born in Matamata, New Zealand in 1923 and arrived at the NCP aged 15. In 1942 Val joined the Royal Navy and was posted to Scapa Flow in the Orkney Islands. He served in the North Atlantic and Mediterranean and witnessed the surrender of the Italian fleet in 1943. Soon after, he was encouraged to join the newly-forming Royal New Zealand Navy, sailing to New Zealand in HMNZS Arabis and making several war patrols in the Pacific. In 1947 he returned to the UK for training, before later touring in HMNZS Kaniere patrolling off the coast of North Korea. In 1956 he received his first command – captain of Kaniere – returning to Korean waters for another year. In 1959 he was posted for three years to Canberra as Defence Liaison Attaché at the New Zealand High Commission, then



Val Were (38-41) in 2013 at a reunion in New Zealand (front row, 4th right)

Singapore in 1965 as. He left the RNZN in 1969 after 27 years. Following his naval career, he and his wife Joy built a house in Auckland in the early 1970s. On weekends, they sailed their 35-foot yacht Alberti, and Val continued to command his boat well into his eighties.

#### **HOPKINS, A.G. (38-42)**

died in September 2019, aged 94. On leaving school during WWII Tony joined the MN, sailing with the Blue Funnel/ Glen Line Group. He survived his ship being torpedoed before coming ashore to join shipbrokers Howe Robinson. When Howe Robinson was appointed shipbroker to the Jardine Matheson Group in 1951, Tony was seconded to



Tony Hopkins (38-42)

Jardines in Hong Kong in 1951. He returned to London in 1955 as a director of Howe Robinson and began a long involvement with China until his retirement in 1989. In 1974 he was admitted to The Worshipful Company of Shipwrights and for many years chaired its Education and Charity committee. He did much to modernise the Shipwrights' philanthropic activity. In 1989 he was appointed a Court Assistant Emeritus. Such was his impact that ten years later he was awarded the Shipwrights' Medal of Honour, becoming only the fourth person to receive the company's highest award.

#### **LLEWELLYN, RICHARD C. (39-43)**

died in February 2021, aged 95. As a Cadet RNR in wartime, Richard went directly into the Royal Navy when he left the NCP. He joined his first ship, the battleship HMS Howe, at Scapa Flow in September 1943. In 1944 he was posted to the light cruiser HMS Ajax in the Mediterranean providing gunfire support for the Allied landings on the Anzio beachhead in Italy followed in 1944 by participation

in the Normandy landings and action off the beaches of Southern France. Further actions in the Mediterranean followed, including the surrender of the German garrison on Santorini, before Ajax was deployed to the Far East.

After the war, Richard worked for a time for Glaxo in Co



Richard Llewellyn (39-43)

Durham. Marriage in 1952 to Alice McInnes was followed by a move to Southern Rhodesia, working with an agricultural seed supplier and fund-raising for the British Red Cross. In 1960 he returned to the UK and began a series of business initiatives that led to the purchase and turnaround of the Banbury printing firm HE Boddy, before a move to Devon in 1973. Here he again built a thriving print business from scratch.

#### **1940s**

#### **ROBINS, GEORGE G. (41-44)**

died on January 4 2021, aged 93. At the NCP he was CCC of Port Jackson Division and Captain of the Boxing team. He went onto



the Merchant Navy with T&J Harrison. Later he came ashore, set up his own business and for the rest of his life made a living as an inventor. In 1973 he won the Design Council's Duke of Edinburgh award for producing an original – in his case, an electric bicycle. Noted for his generosity, George remained a lifelong friend of Michael S. Lavender Jones (41-45).

### **JONES, MICHAEL S.**

**LAVENDER** (41-45) died on January 27 2019, aged 91. He left a wife Sheila and a son Neil. At the NCP Lavender Jones was CCC of Macquarie in 1945 and won Colours in the College 1st XI hockey team. From Pangbourne, Lavender Jones joined the shipping line T&J Harrison. By 1963, when an OP Register was compiled, he had come ashore and was working in the tobacco trade.

### **OLDEN, RICHARD** (42-46)

a Captain in the Union-Castle Line and Younger Brother of Trinity House, passed away on September 23 2021 aged 92. Tom Woolley (60-65) attended the funeral. Richard was born in 1928, the son of a banker. On leaving the NCP, he went into the MN with Clan Line and remained with it until 1950 when he transferred to the Union-Castle Mail Steamship Company. From 1967-69 Richard was staff commander of the Union-Castle

flagship Windsor Castle before being promoted to captain and transferred to cargo ships in the British & Commonwealth Shipping Company. In 1972 he was elected a Younger Brother of Trinity House and during the 1970s also became a member of The Honourable Company of Master Mariners, a founder member of The Nautical Institute and a member of Southampton Master Mariners' Club. In 1975 he came ashore to become Marine Superintendent for Union-Castle in Southampton. In 1978 he was seconded to Dar es Salaam as the British Shipping Lines' Representative in Tanzania responsible for the onshore business of six companies. Interested in marine surveying, he returned to the UK in 1983 and joined a small marine survey company in Southampton, remaining with it until retirement.



Richard Olden (42-46) - in East Africa 1969

### **POUNDS, CHARLES E.**

(43-46) died in March 2021. At the NCP Charles was a CC in

Hesperus Division in Lent Term 1946. We have no further details of his life. Charles sent his son Simon to Pangbourne 1969-73. Simon worked in advertising in Hong Kong for some years. Today he raises beef cattle in the Hunter Valley north of Sydney, Australia.

### **TUKE, DAVID R.M.** (44-47)

Commander RN, died in February 2021, aged 91. He joined the RN in 1947, Special Entry (Supply and Secretariat Branch), reaching the rank of Commander in 1968. Amongst his appointments was a spell in the battleship HMS Vanguard 1951-52 as Naval Storekeeping



David Tuke - Devonport 1968

Officer. From 1952-54 he served at NATO Fontainebleau as Assistant Secretary. Later, he was in HM Yacht Britannia 1963-66 as Deputy Supply Officer. As a Retired Officer, from 1983-93 he rewrote all Naval Administrative Instructions, leading on to his revising and rewriting the entire Queen's Regulations for the Royal Navy.

**HARDWICK, JOHN H.**

(44-48) died aged 90 in February 2021 in Bradford-on-Avon. At the NCP, John was a born leader. Despite being the goalkeeper, he captained the 1st X1 hockey team ably in 1947 with The Log stating: "Hardwick has been conspicuous... cheerful always, and as a captain has not been afraid to drive his team." In the 1947 rugby 1st XV he was termed a "hard-working forward" playing in the second row and gaining his colours. In Summer Term 1948, when CCCC, he was awarded The King's Gold Medal.

From the NCP, Hardwick entered the Royal Navy, eventually becoming a Lt. Commander, serving in eleven ships and being present at medal theatre operations at Suez in 1956 and in Singapore/Malaysia and Aden. In 1966 he left the Navy and began a long career in industry, rising to become Group Personnel Director at Avon Rubber. In parallel, he became



John Hardwick (44-48) - receiving MBE 1987

Chairman of the Rubber Industry Safety Committee. In 1987 John was awarded an MBE for this work.

John also had a long association with the Magistracy and the Bath Bench. This culminated with the chairmanship of the Avon Magistrates Courts Committee in the 1990s. On retiring from Avon Rubber in 1994, he set up a consultancy which specialised in tutoring ex-service officers to win jobs in industry. He also brewed homemade wine for many years, produced home movies, made bread and was an avid weather-watcher who kept barometer records going back decades.

**MANN, KEITH S.M. (45-49)**

died in Christchurch, New Zealand in November 2021 aged 89. Born in London in 1932, Keith's teenage and adult sporting life revolved around fencing. At the Nautical College, he was a CC in Hesperus division and Captain of Fencing. In 1948 he was the winner of both the Under-16 Naval Cadets championship and the Under-20 Junior Officers championship at the Royal Tournament.

Keith joined the Blue Star line and by 1954 was a First Officer with the company. Two years later he left the sea, emigrated to New Zealand, married, and began a new life in commerce in sales and marketing with Dunlop Rubber, becoming General



Keith Mann (45-49)

Manager of the company's Hong Kong office. On retiring in 1992, he continued his association with Dunlop as a consultant for the next ten years.

Throughout his career Keith was involved in fencing at a high level. Rising rapidly to the top of the sport in New Zealand, he represented the country at four Commonwealth Games, twice as a competitor (1962, 1966) and twice as a Games official (1970, 1974). From 1967-70 he was President of the NZ National Fencing Federation (NZNFA) and from 1971-80 sole national selector. In 1994 he became President of the NZNFA for a second time and later was awarded with both a Special Award by the NZNFA and a Member of the NZ Order of Merit for services to sport. An obituary by Fencing New Zealand stated: "Keith was the epitome of a good fencer and a role model for many in the fencing community... He was renowned for always



acting with modesty and good sportsmanship.” A loyal OP, he regularly attended the annual reunion of OPs in New Zealand.

**HOGG, GEORGE A.** (48-51) a Captain in the Royal Navy, died in Cornwall in June 2021 aged 86. “A great man missed by all his



Mike Banbury (48-52)

family and friends” stated a death notice in The Daily Telegraph. At the Nautical College, Hogg was a CL in Hesperus Division before passing the Civil Service Examination aged 16 to enter BRNC Dartmouth.

In March 2019 George contacted the College to share news of his life. He wrote: “I am now at the end of two long and successful careers, firstly the Royal Navy (Electrical Branch 1952-88), and secondly as a museum volunteer 1990-2017 when I retired as a founder member and longstanding Trustee of the National Maritime Museum Cornwall. In June this year (2019) I was awarded the Victory

Medal from the Society for Nautical Research for my efforts to record and save historic ships and small craft. This is, I believe, a first for Pangbourne.”

**BANBURY MICHAEL C.** (48-52) died in November 2021 a month after attending the OP Falklands Islands reunion event in Portsmouth with his wife Julia. He was 86. At the NCP he was CCC of Port Jackson. In 1952 he won the Maitland Cup presented to the best cadet joining the Merchant Navy that year. Aged 17, he joined Clan Line Steamers Ltd in the footsteps of his father, working his way up to the rank of Chief Officer, and helped to set up the British & Commonwealth Cadet Training Scheme in 1964. He also enjoyed an interlude with British United Airways piloting a new passenger hovercraft service between Rhyl to Wallasey in 1962. In 1965 he transferred to the Union Castle Line, on the flagship RMS Windsor Castle.

Throughout his time in the MN, Mike continued in the RNR with stints in various RN ships. In 1966, by then an RNR Lieutenant Commander, he had the honour of commanding the minesweeper HMS Invermoriston on her voyage from Singapore to Portsmouth. After moving to Westminster Dredging and being appointed

Commander RNR in 1970, he faced new challenges in locations such as the Canadian Western Arctic where he worked the dredger Beaver Mackenzie. In December 1978 he was appointed Captain RNR. Subsequently, he joined the Alexandra Towing Company at Gravesend in 1981 and became a member of the British Tug Owners Association; he was Chairman 1990-92. He retired in 1997 and among other interests became President of the Gravesend RNLI and the Gravesend Sea Cadets, whilst continuing as a member of the Honourable Company of Master Mariners and the Nautical Institute.

## 1950s

**DUGGAN, HUGH** (50-53) died in Queensland, Australia in May 2021. He was 85. At the NCP he represented the College at the Public Schools’ Fencing Tournament. In 1953 he left school for Shell Tankers.



Hugh Duggan (50-53)

The following year he joined the Royal Fleet Auxiliary. By 1956, he was 3rd Officer RFA Tidereach and was on station with the fleet during the Suez Canal Crisis. Later, in March 1958, he was one of 12 officers selected to form the Guard of Honour representing the Royal Navy at the Cenotaph in London. Following his years at sea, Hugh met his wife-to-be in Rhodesia, where his love of theatre found him in the vanguard of an emerging television industry. Settling back in England in the early 1970s, he pursued a television career, living in Newcastle, Southampton and Bournemouth. In 1980 he emigrated to Australia. Here he joined Channel 7 and won awards as producer and director of children's programmes, light entertainment specials and outside broadcasts. In later life he became Executive Director of the Royal Children's Hospital Foundation in Melbourne. He is remembered as a gentleman who lived a full life and loved his dogs, the sense of the absurd and his family.

**COLLINGWOOD, JEREMY J.R.** (50-55) died in December 2020. He was 83. At the NCP he stood out as a scholar, sportsman and leader spending three summers in the 1st XI and as CCC of Macquarie Division.



1st XI v. THE ADMIRALS.

*Back Row (L. to R.)* Commander C. C. H. Dunlop, Rear-Admiral John Dent, Commander K. A. Sellar, N. M. Collier, I. D. R. Cameron, J. J. B. Pope.  
*Second Row (L. to R.)* P. J. Davey, Esq., Commander E. A. S. Manners, Captain J. A. Hussey, Commander R. J. L. Hammond, R. Holworthy, R. T. Mylchreest, Captain N. V. Grace, M. L. Maycock, P. A. C. Sinker.  
*Seated (L. to R.)* J. G. K. Borrett, Admiral Sir Ralph Edwards, J. J. R. Collingwood, Captain S. Boucher, T. N. O'Neil, Captain R. J. Shaw.  
*Bottom Row (L. to R.)* J. M. Ridgway, M. W. Banks, Commander G. Talbot-Smith, Captain D. Cotman.

Jeremy Collingwood (50-55) - centre front row sitting 1955

He then won a place at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge to study Economics and Law. First, however, he did National Service in the Royal Navy, serving in the aircraft carrier HMS Eagle as a Midshipman. Having completed his degree Jeremy joined the UK Overseas Civil Service spending another year at Cambridge.

On completion, he went to Northern Rhodesia as a District Officer serving until independence in October 1964. Subsequently, he stayed on in independent Zambia, qualifying as a barrister and writing a Criminal Law of East and Central Africa. Later, he undertook roles as Magistrate, Law Lecturer and Head of Law School at the National Institute of Public Administration in Lusaka. He was to maintain links in Africa for the rest of his life leading teaching missions to South

Africa, Uganda, Tanzania, and Zambia.

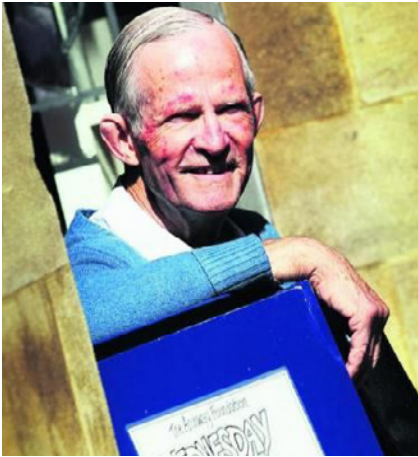
Jeremy returned to England in 1970 and joined the Director of Public Prosecutions as a Legal Assistant until in 1978, he switched direction and was ordained in the Anglican Ministry, serving as a Rural Dean and Vicar of Holy Trinity Church Bristol and then Christ Church Guildford. He retired to Saffron Walden in 2002.

Jeremy was also a scholar and author, writing many articles and books including well-researched biographies of notable figures in the history of both Guildford and Saffron Walden, and an account of his distant Lake District Collingwood relatives.

#### **HERKLOTS, JEREMY B.**

(50-53) a Lt Cdr in the Royal Navy, died in Oxford in January 2021. He was 83. He had an





Jeremy Herklots (50-53)

extraordinary upbringing before the NCP. His family lived in Hong Kong. Aged five, he escaped to the Philippines in 1940 as the Japanese invaded the colony, leaving his father behind. Captured by the Japanese in 1941, he spent the next four years in two harsh prisoner-of-war camps in the Philippines. Dying from dysentery, he was rescued from a grim prison in Manila by U.S. troops in 1945 the day before the family was expecting to be executed by the retreating Japanese.

Herklots qualified for BRNC Dartmouth in 1953 and spent seven years in submarines before retiring in 1966. He then began a varied career involving navigation systems and pump technology, including a rewarding eight year period with the Intermediate Technology Development Group (ITDG) in South East Asia. The most significant project was the introduction and evolution

of a new form of low-cost boatbuilding for artisan fishermen in South India. After ITDG, Jeremy set up an overseas development unit for the fairtrade charity of Traidcraft. Later, he settled in Oxford and owned a business setting up computerised accounts systems for small companies. In retirement, he was treasurer and trustee of the Oxford charity Archway Foundation.

**WARD, PATRICK ERSKINE** (51-54) died in Norwich in January 2012 as the OP Society has recently learned. At the NCP Pat captained the Fencing team in which he was, according to The Log, “a tower of strength.” A member of the 1st XI cricket team in the summer of 1954, his “value to the side cannot be overstressed.” An opening bowler, “his accurate, nagging length was invaluable.” That season he took 38 wickets at an average of just 14.3. Destined for the Merchant Navy, Ward



Patrick Ward (51-54)

left the NCP and went to sea, but remained in the Royal Naval Reserve. Later, he switched to the Royal Navy rising to become a Captain RN. In retirement, he moved to Norfolk and played golf at Eaton GC, smoking a pipe – “a steady 15-handicapper” according to OP Richard Guillaume who partnered him on several rounds.

**UPTON, GEORGE LEIGH** (51-55) a retired Lt Commander RN, died in Torbay Hospital in August 2007, aged 70 years, after a short illness as the OP Society discovered. Upton joined the NCP in Lent term 1951 and was in Hesperus Division. He was also a member of the College’s cross-country running team in 1953, 1954 and 1955 before gaining Special Entry into the RN. Cdr Upton’s death came to light as a result of efforts made ahead of the OP Falklands commemoration event in Portsmouth in October 2021 to track down all 51 OPs thought to have taken part in the conflict. As far as is known, Cdr Upton was in the Falklands as Chief Officer on a Royal Fleet Auxiliary vessel.

**JACKSON, M.J.R.** (52-56) died after a long illness In November 2021 in Auckland, New Zealand where he had lived since 1967. He left a wife, three sons and a daughter. At the Nautical College Mike, who came from



Mike Jackson (52-56)

Essex, was in Macquarie division and for three years the Boxing team. He went into the Merchant Navy, obtained his Masters Certificate, sailed with Blue Star and then with The New Zealand Shipping Company. In 1967 he left the sea after a final voyage in the Rangitoto. That year he married and settled in Auckland. Here he worked at the Waterfront Training School, teaching port workers to drive heavy machinery. Later he was employed in the Ports of Auckland as a Ship Planner. He stayed there until retirement.

### **ELLIOTT, ROBERT**

**ANDREW** (53-58) died in August 2018 as the OP Society learned in 2021. He was a Lt. Commander Royal Navy. His last address was in St. Agnes, Cornwall. At the NCP, Andrew was in Macquarie Division. He became CCCC in Lent Term 1958. The October 2018 issue of Navy News provided detail about his service in the RN including

postings in HMS Ark Royal, Invincible (during the Falklands conflict), Hermes, Intrepid and Illustrious. Also recorded by Navy News are stints with 3 Commando Royal Marines and with the Sea Cadet Corps. The last Pangbourne event Andrew attended is believed to have been the 2010 OP Dinner. In retirement, he had an interest in sheep farming.

### **EDEN-SMITH, MILES R.**

(54-57) died in November 2021, aged 81. Miles always regarded himself as "a simple sailor" and was happiest when at sea or yarning with sea-going friends. At the NCP, he was in Hesperus division and won the prestigious Maitland Cup for Seamanship in 1957. He was a member of the 1st X1 Hockey and Fencing teams.

After the NCP, Miles joined Alfred Holt/Blue Funnel Line then Royal Mail Lines rising to 2nd Officer and qualifying as an Extra Master Mariner. Seeking command, he moved to the Furness Withy Group



Miles Eden-Smith (54-57)

in 1969 and remained with the company until 1983 achieving Captain rank. At this point Miles swallowed the anchor, came ashore and worked in the City of London specialising in shipping litigation. In 1995 he retired and spent the remainder of his life in Wimbledon, southwest London. From 1957-92 he was an officer in the RNR, rising to the rank of Commander. He was also a member of the Honourable Company of Master Mariners, the Nautical Institute and the Shaw Savill Society. For many years, he represented the OP Society at the Remembrance Sunday service at the MN memorial at Tower Hill, laying a wreath on behalf of all OPs who had gone to sea in the Merchant Navy.

### **CHAMPION, JOHN**

(57-61) died in New Zealand on February 14 2021. After the NCP, he entered the Merchant Navy with Shaw, Savill & Albion Line and served in the RNR. Most of his voyages involved trades between the UK, Australia and New Zealand. Shaw Savill ceased trading in 1975. John settled in New Zealand but did not take part in OP events there. The Society has no further details.

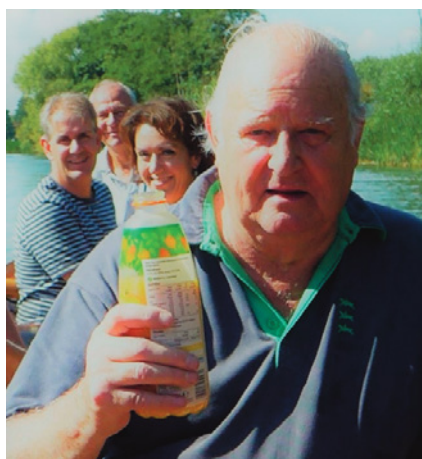
### **COOMBS, JOLLYON**

(59-63) died in May 2021 aged 75. Jollyon represented the College at shooting and fencing. On leaving, he studied



photography at Bournemouth School of Art, before signing up for the Welsh Guards and went to Mons Officer Cadet School. By 1976 he had risen to the rank of Major after tours of duty in Germany, Northern Ireland, Dubai and Cyprus. A chance meeting with the C.O. of the 16th/5th Lancers lured him away from the Welsh Guards to the Lancers from 1979–1986.

In 1986, Jollyon left the Army, embarked on a career in property. A partner at Cluttons invited him to join the firm, which he did, before being head-hunted by Chesterfields in 1989 and Jackson-Stops & Staffs in 1990. In 1992, Jollyon participated in a management buy-out and took charge of offices in Chelsea and Fulham before selling his shares when he became ill with pneumonia. In 1999 he secured a job as Clerk to the Worshipful Company of Feltmakers in the City of London. For 20 years his larger-than-life personality



Jollyon Coombs (59–63)

made him a true presence in the Livery world. In parallel, Jollyon undertook many charity-raising initiatives, included walking across Iceland, rowing down the Thames and rowing the Great Glen in Scotland, finishing a harrowing 70 miles and 24,000 strokes in 20 hours spread over six days. In 2018, aged 72, he rowed an Olympic course for each year of his life. The boat was later donated to the College. In all, he raised well over £100,000 from these ventures.

## 1960s

**ABBOT, DAVID R. (64–69)** died in November 2020, aged 70. At Pangbourne, he was a CL in Hesperus, a proficient fencer and College Librarian in 1968. After leaving the NCP David went to Southampton College of Technology where he achieved a Diploma in Yacht & Boatyard Management. His first employment, in 1974, was as Chandlery Manager at Westerly Marine Construction in Waterlooville, Hampshire. In 1980 he moved on and spent a brief time selling life insurance. In late 1981 he joined the Yachting Monthly advertising team, based in London, where he sold space in the South and South West of England regions. In 1998 David was made redundant. He and his wife moved to Suffolk. There he joined Oyster Marine



David Abbott (64–69)

in Ipswich as Warranty Manager. He also became a member of Pin Mill Sailing Club, downriver from Ipswich, and its Vice Commodore.

**GLENCROSS, JON (67–70)** died suddenly in Gibsons, British Columbia in May 2021 aged 66. After leaving Pangbourne, Jon went to Agricultural College in Devon and then worked on various farms while starting a smallholding in Cornwall which extended to 70 acres. One of his neighbours was Robert Strang (41–43) who farmed near Liskeard and died in 2009. In parallel, he began a 30-year career as a Cornish Hedger – surely the only OP ever to achieve this distinction – building hedges across Cornwall and Devon. During this period, Jon inherited an estate in Cornwall, from his father JEH Glencross [38–42], including woodlands, but was disillusioned by the outbreak of the foot-and-mouth disease in 2001. With his wife Ali, he

began to contemplate emigration and focused on southwestern British Columbia. After a wait of nearly eight years, the couple got the go-ahead to move in 2011, settling in Gibsons. Although retired, Jon remained very active becoming commanding officer of the local Navy League Cadet Corps.



Jon Glencross (67-70)

**DAVID HEARSON (65-69)** died after a fall in Scotland on January 18th, 2022, aged 70. He left a wife Dawn and two children. Paul Hearson (65-70), David's twin brother, writes: "We arrived at the Nautical College, Pangbourne in September 1965. David embraced everything that Pangbourne had to offer and, in time, became Captain of Rugby, a member of the 1st VIII and CCC of Illawarra.

In 1972 he joined IBM and began life as a salesman, eventually becoming personal assistant to the head of IBM Europe. In 1991 he moved to Saudi Business Machines based in Jeddah. This

company was the main agent for the purchase and onward sale of PCs into the Kingdom and the wider Middle East. He married in November 1990, and his two children were born before he left Saudi in 1995 to return to the UK as Chief Executive of Latchways. Two years after David arrived, Latchways became a public company quoted on the London Stock Exchange. In 20 years, David took the company's turnover from £1.5 million a year to over £42 million a year, with the majority of output going to export.

David and his wife Dawn lived near Marlborough, on a farm with 80 acres dedicated to breeding racehorses. Among his breeding successes was Aqlaam which was sold as a yearling to Hamdan Al Maktoum. Aqlaam earned half a million pounds on the racecourse including winning the Jersey stakes at Ascot and the Prix du Moulin at Longchamp.

When living in Paris David had begun a lifelong interest in wine and had a magnificent cellar which he shared with both friends and family. In his younger days he enjoyed sailing and whilst in Saudi Arabia he gained his diving qualifications. He also loved fishing but, above all, he enjoyed the good company and rapport of friends. David enjoyed life immensely and had a

wonderful family with which to share it, a full life well lived."

## 1970s

### HACKER, ROGER DAVID

(70-75) died in 2019, the OP Society discovered in 2021. At Pangbourne, Roger was a CC in Illawarra Division and Captain of Boats, winning a silver medal in the coxed pairs at the 1974 National Schools Regatta. He was also awarded his Colours in the 1975 1st XV using his height and weight well in the second row. He also played the bugle the Band later becoming Drum Major. In 1975 he won the Music prize; one of his skills was playing a 12-string guitar. On leaving the College, Roger studied Print & Business Management at the London College of Printing. Later he worked for Pan Books and BT.



Roger Hacker (70-75)

**Please visit the Pangbourne Portal to read all obituaries in full.**



# The Antarctic

## A very

Sometimes it's the most ordinary moments that can uncover the most extraordinary stories. Buried amongst a pile of dusty ledgers in the College archives was an equally dusty piece of cardboard seemingly destined for the bin. Closer examination however revealed that this piece of card was actually a Certificate of Membership to The Antarctic Club issued to Lieutenant Commander J H Blair RN on the 17th January 1929. Behind this faded document lies the story of a remarkable man and one of Pangbourne College's great characters.



JH Blair

John (Jackie) Hamilton Blair was born on the 29th July 1889 in Glasgow and as a teenager embarked on a career at sea, signing on as an apprentice with The Loch Line whose fleet of twenty five ships sailed between Scotland and Australia. Jackie, as he was more commonly known, reached the rank of third mate before leaving the company and joining A. Currie & Co, a shipping line founded by fellow Scot Archibald Currie and whose ships plied their trade between Melbourne and India. It was while based in Australia that Jackie, aged twenty four, secured the position of Chief Officer on board the SY Aurora but this voyage was no ordinary voyage.

The SY Aurora and her crew had been chartered by the experienced geologist and Antarctic explorer Douglas Mawson with the aim of undertaking an expedition to chart and map the area of Antarctica directly beneath Australia. Mawson had previously taken part in Shackleton's 1907 expedition and was offered a prominent role on Robert Falcon Scott's ill-fated expedition of 1910 which he turned down in favour of his own plans.

In 1913 Chief Officer Blair set sail for Antarctica. Ironically for someone who would later become such an integral part of the College, the ship embarked from Port Jackson to one of

# Club exclusive club!



Certificate of Membership to The Antarctic Club

its first ports of call Macquarie Island where Mawson established one of three shore bases he would use for the expedition. Facing sub-zero temperatures, mountainous seas and the ever present danger posed by sea ice, the *Aurora* covered over 1800 miles of unmapped coastline. The expedition was to be one of the most harrowing ever undertaken and was marred by the death of two of its members who along with Mawson embarked on an attempt to reach Oates Land by sledge. Mawson eventually

returned to his base camp alone just in time to see the *Aurora* sailing for Australia for the winter. It would be another year before the ship returned to pick him and his relief party up.

The following year and with war looming, Jackie Blair enlisted with the Royal Navy and between December 1914 and the end of the war would carry out sixty eight submarine patrols earning himself the Distinguished Service Cross in 1917. This however was not the first medal he received as in 1915 he was

awarded the silver Polar Medal for his trip with Mawson.

Perhaps the greatest recognition that Jackie received for his work in the Antarctic came from Douglas Mawson himself when he named a group of islands in Commonwealth Bay, Antarctica the Blair Islands. This was perhaps an indicator of the mutual respect and admiration that formed between the forthright Yorkshire man, Mawson and the tenacious little Scotsman, Blair.

In 1919 Jackie Blair was recruited by Sir Philip Devitt to Captain the training ship *St George* and so began his illustrious career with The Nautical College, Pangbourne. The College archives contain the log that he kept during his first year with the *St George* in 1920. His love of the sea and his overwhelming desire to see the cadets succeed jumps from the pages as well as his reminiscences of his time spent in the Antarctic. Eventually he would rise to Captain



Superintendent of the College in 1939 before returning to sea during the Second World War. A fuller account of JH Blair's role at the College can be found in chapter 3 of Robin Knight's centenary publication "Spirit in Changing Times." But what of that dusty piece of card.

The Antarctic Club was founded in 1929, by invitation, open to individuals who have spent at least one winter or two summer field seasons south of the Antarctic convergence. The first annual dinner and reunion was held at the Café Royal on Regent Street, London, on the 17th January, to coincide with the anniversary of Captain Scott's party reaching the South Pole, in 1912. Thirty nine founding members attended that first dinner, representing 11 expeditions from Carsten Borchgrevink's Southern Cross Expedition (1898-1900) to the British Imperial Expedition to Grahamland (1920-22). At this dinner, Lieutenant Commander John Hamilton Blair was issued with membership certificate number thirty eight, he would later go on to be elected the Club's 9th President in 1937.

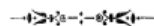


First dinner club

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## ANTARCTIC DINNER CLUB.



20th December, 1928.

Dear Sir,

It has been decided to form a Dining Club, the membership of which is to be confined to those who have taken part in Antarctic Exploration, for the purpose of reviving old associations and of keeping green the memory of the five who reached their objective on January 17th, 1912, and of others who have lost their lives in Antarctic Seas.

It is proposed that there should be an Annual Dinner on the 17th January, and arrangements have been made to hold the first of these on January 17th, 1929, at the Café Royal, 68, Regent Street, W.1, at 7.30 for 8 p.m. Engr. Vice-Admiral R. W. Skelton, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., ~~Eng.~~, Engineer-in-Chief of the Navy (Discovery 1901-1904), has consented to act as Chairman on this occasion.

A temporary Organising Committee has been formed, and consists of Cdr. L. C. Bernacchi, O.B.E., R.N.V.R., of S.Y. Discovery 1901-1904, Eng.-Cdr. L. Rickinson, R.N. (rtd.) of S.Y. Endurance 1914-1916, and the Honorary Secretary, Lieut.-Cdr. J. H. Mather, D.S.O., V.D., R.N.V.R., of S.Y. Terra Nova 1910-1913, but it is proposed to elect the Committee for the following year at the first dinner.

Copies of this circular are being sent to those whose addresses are known to the Committee, but all recipients are asked kindly to notify the Secretary as soon as possible of any addresses that may be known to them, so that all may have the opportunity of joining the Club.

The cost of the Dinner Tickets will be 12/6 each, exclusive of wine, but inclusive of coffee and port, and in addition there will be an annual subscription of 5/- to cover the costs of printing and postages.

Yours faithfully,

*Prof Redmore Brown*  
Geography Dept  
The University  
Sheffield

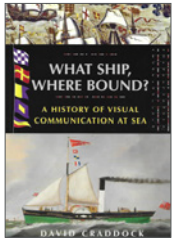
*John Mather*

Hon. Sec.

Diner club letter dated 1928

# Book Reviews

by ROBIN KNIGHT



**What Ship,  
Where  
Bound?** by  
David Craddock  
(58-62)

The title is taken from the message exchanged between passing ships at sea.

It covers the history of visual communication, and the language of signalling, at sea from Byzantine times to the present.

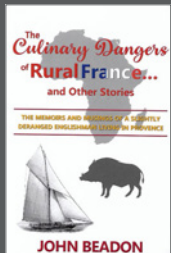
The subject is far more complex than might appear at first glance. Achieving any sort of international

standardization was a long process and took several hundred years. Navies and merchant shipping companies went their own ways. Admirals in battle had their own ideas. Rival concepts constantly arose. The importance of the topic was widely recognised, given the implications for safety at sea, yet even in the present day all is far from uniform.

David Craddock is well placed to cover this subject. At the Nautical College, his own experience of visual signalling began under the redoubtable eye of Chief Petty

Officer 'Charlie' Sewell who had been a young boy signaller in HMS Neptune at the Battle of Jutland in 1916. Later Craddock joined P&O and spent five years at sea before coming ashore and studying Graphic Design at the London College of Printing.

Sections of the book will be of interest to non-specialists, including a detailed analysis of the most famous signal in British maritime history – Nelson's "England expects that every man will do his duty" before the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805.



**The Culinary  
Dangers of  
Rural France  
...and other  
stories** by John  
Beadon (62-67)

John Beadon, by his own account "has been lucky to lead an unusually full and adventuresome life."

In a book he describes as the "memoirs and musings of a slightly deranged Englishman" made up of 54 short stories from rural France, South Africa and the sea, he conveys vividly the great pleasure he has derived from a 50-year post-Pangbourne existence only

ten months of which has been spent in offices.

Since his time at the NCP, he has sailed, run sailing schools and delivered luxury yachts all over the Indian and Atlantic oceans. Always a risk-taker, he ran a fast motorboat for a year in the southern part of the Red Sea when piracy and kidnapping was rife there. He married three times and, until Covid struck, was living half the year in a shepherd's cottage in the Alpes-Maritime foothills north of Nice and half the year in South Africa.

Pangbourne features in a chapter titled 'A Most Fortuitous Meeting.' Sailing a 50ft ketch to the

Seychelles at the end of 1983, a mechanical issue forced Beadon to put in at the port of Hodeidah in Yemen. Welcomed with infinite suspicion by Kalashnikov-wielding soldiers, he spotted a Red Ensign freighter anchored nearby and managed to sneak on board. The captain, was Rodney Pym (60-64). Half an hour later, spare-part made and the NCP duly toasted, Beadon got back to his yacht, distracted the guard with a copy of Playboy magazine, and hurriedly sailed out of the port.

This is an enjoyable, exuberant, irreverent book written to "provide some light relief." – a testimony to a life lived to the full.



# Max Macklin

## Art of Concrete



Max Macklin (07-14) proudly introduces "Bristol Concrete Studio"

I started Pangbourne College in Year 7 and followed right through to Upper VI, looking back it was an opportunity of a lifetime, (thank you Dad and the College!). I studied Business and Design Technology at A-Level and funnily enough the skills learned in these two subjects are exactly the skills I utilise in my day to day life now.

I am currently 26 and left Pangbourne 8 years ago, I went on to get my degree at Bristol UWE and I now run a small independent business called Bristol Concrete Studio Ltd, which makes bespoke concrete furniture. We have been running a little over a year now and are doing very well. I think the opportunities that Pangbourne enabled me as a student have allowed me to become the person I am today.

I think everybody at Pangbourne has heard of the Flag Values...I could even remember 4 without having to check on the College website! I remember struggling to memorise each one for the test in Junior

School; however I'd like to think they are now part of my daily life.

The resilience and industry learnt at Pangbourne, mixed in with lots of moral courage and initiative have been key for me personally with my new business. Starting a business from scratch with my own savings didn't prove to be as easy as I had hoped, but by digging deep and pushing forwards to get through every obstacle and challenge it presented, these elements have definitely been an integral part of my success.

Pangbourne for me, was very much a people place and the friendships I formed here are the ones that have stood the



test of time, many of those have been involved in helping me get my new business up and running. My friends have been so supportive and amongst other things, have even helped me with deliveries on a Sunday morning to the other side of the country...kindness and selflessness to the extreme!

Another Pangbourne friend; Ru Pawluk (who is a fantastic talent) has also been key to the success. He used his skills in 3D imagery to really boost my marketability in the earlier months and this year, together we are launching 'The Bristol Sink Company'.

A large part of the success of my brand has been customer service. When designing bespoke pieces, you have to work closely with clients, working to achieve exactly what they're looking for or wanting to achieve; this takes time, perseverance, patience and integrity and has resulted in some heart warming customer reviews.

I think in any walk of life and certainly any business - respect is a huge quality which is necessary in order to do well. Pangbourne certainly instils this in people and I think it does so, in a manner which produces great people. Thank you Pangbourne!

BCS Ltd specialises in high



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here of my designs which I hope will entice you to look further at my website [www.bristolconcretestudio.com](http://www.bristolconcretestudio.com) or you can find me on Facebook, Instagram and Etsy.



# OP Accounts & Committee

## Can you help?

### Pangbourne College: An Oral History

In May, we will be launching an initiative to capture oral histories of OPs, in the form of a series of one to one or group interviews with OPs from the same era sharing their recollections.

If you are interested in participating, please contact Phillip Plato ([phillip@platoestates.com](mailto:phillip@platoestates.com)) or Sue Carpenter ([sue.carpenter@pangbourne.com](mailto:sue.carpenter@pangbourne.com))

**Notes:** The OP Society agreed in 2018 to gradually redistribute funds in its bank account in the form of grants and donations to small OP projects and to Pangbourne College. With that in mind, a deficit in the balance sheet is likely in the years ahead.

Income	2021	2020
College Contribution	15,000	15,000
Member Contributions	1,726	1,943
OP Magazine		200
Legacies		104
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>16,726</b>	<b>17,247</b>

Expenditure		
OP Events	470	205
OP Society Gazebo		803
OP Magazine		
- Design	2,640	2,640
- Print & Post	6,103	5,589
Publication of OP Record Vol. 2		
- Design		1,646
- Print	4,146	
- Robin Knight		500
Publication of Leaders	2,500	
Archiving	628	277
Website	30	30
OP Sport		
- Golf	250	475
- Sailing	1,500	800
Presentations	372	
Wreaths & Flowers	42	
Travel Expense		21
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>(18,681)</b>	<b>(12,986)</b>
<b>Surplus / (Deficit) for the year</b>	<b>(1,955)</b>	<b>4,261</b>

General Funds held at Lloyds Bank total £47,131 (£43,382 in 2020)

OP Society Committee	
President	Mark Dumas (Q 64-68)
Vice President	Merrick Rayner (Q 68-73)
Honorary Vice Presidents	Robin Knight (H 56-61)
	Robin Paine (S 55-58)
	Richard Shuttleworth (H 57-62)
	Ian Williams (I 61-63)
Chairman	Phillip Plato (H 73-77)
Secretary	Adam Lewis (H 99-01)
Treasurer	Tarka Duhalde (S 95-98)
Elected Members	John Fisher (I 68-73), Larry Howard (Q 05-11), Theodore Isaacs (PJ 78-85), Claire Morphy (S 90-92), David Nicholson (Q 64-68), Mike Nicholson (Q 57-61), Andrew Scott-Priestley (I 58-62), William Skinner (Q 82-87), Jonathan Spencer (Q 73-77)

**Notes:** Decade Representatives encourage fellow OPs to attend events, plan decade-specific events, and act as a link to the OP Society Committee. In you are interested in representing the 1950s or 2020s, please email Phillip Plato at [phillip@platoestates.com](mailto:phillip@platoestates.com)

OP Overseas Representatives	
Argentina	Charles Pettit (Buenos Aires)
Australia	Paddy Evelegh (Perth)
	Roger Pike (Sydney)
	Geoff Rae (Brisbane)
	Alex Heaton (Melbourne)
Canada	James Mackenzie (Vancouver)
Cyprus	Louis Carrel
Malaysia	Alex Tilley
New Zealand	Graham Jex
South Africa	Shaun Maynard (Johannesburg)
	Geoff Popple (Cape Town)
Uganda	Andrew Nzeyi
United States	Charles Bown (Chicago)
	Nick Gillette (California)
	Gyles Thornely (Colorado)

OP Decade Representatives	
1940s	Courteney Edenborough (Q 45-48)
1950s	Vacant
1960s	David Nicholson (Q 64-68)
1970s	Phillip Plato (H 73-78)
1980s	William Skinner (Q 82-87)
1990s	Claire Morphy (S 90-92)
2000s	Paul Lawrence (Q 04-08)
2010s	Larry Howard (Q 05-11)
2020s	Vacant

College Contacts	
Head of Development & Alumni Relations	Tim Hamilton (H 96-01)
Pangbournian Magazine & News	Matt Allen
College Archivist	Sue Carpenter

OP Clubs & Groups	
Yacht Club	Peter Kewish (Q 84-89)
Golf Society	Charlie Parry (H 81-85)
City / London Group	Robin Batt (S 61-64)
Over 60's Group	Mark Dumas (Q 64-68)
Military Group (MOPs)	D P Holloway (PJ 94-99)

**Notes:** OP Overseas Representatives act as a point of contact for OPs visiting their area. Occasionally they organise events. If you live abroad and would like to take on this role, please email Phillip Plato at [phillip@platoestates.com](mailto:phillip@platoestates.com)

In addition, the OP Society is seeking to establish regional UK groups, if you would like to act as a representative, please contact Phillip Plato at [phillip@platoestates.com](mailto:phillip@platoestates.com)



# Charlotte Drake Society

Early in 2021, former Housemistress Amanda Bowden proposed a new society for 6<sup>th</sup> Form girls. The objective was to inspire girls through experiences, knowledge and skills.

The pupils named the society after one of the first girls to attend Pangbourne College, Charlotte Butterworth. Following a discussion around women taking their husband's name in marriage, the girls also agreed to name it after Charlotte's maiden name, Drake. The aims of the society are as follows:

*To form a trusted group where girls can share experiences and learn from each other;*

*To be a voice and make a positive difference in the Pangbourne community; and*

*To empower each other to take the opportunities available.*

Charlotte kindly offered to be a guest speaker at the inaugural meeting in April 2021. She spoke fondly of her time at the College and her role as a current Governor of the College.



Sixth form girls enjoying the discussions at a recent Charlotte Drake Society meeting.

The new academic year began with our first in-person event. All attendees brought an example of an inspirational woman and we shared stories over a delicious chocolate fondue including: Alice Ball, an African-American chemist who found a treatment for leprosy whose work was stolen and subsequently re-credited to her, and Silvia Rivera, a drag queen and trans woman in the late 1900s, who started the STAR organisation with Marsha P. Johnson (drag queen) for LGBTQ support and empowerment.

In November we welcomed three guest speakers for a Q&A. Laura Green a sociology lecturer at Bath Spa university spoke about her experiences as a woman

in academia. Hannah Stone an OP and forensic psychologist had some fascinating stories working with convicted criminals at Broadmoor. The final guest, (via google meet), was Oenone Flambert who works for the charity TearFund. The guest speakers shared similar stories and advice despite taking very different career paths.

We are always looking for guest visitors, speakers and resources. We are lining up a self-defence workshop and in the Summer term we hope to run a formal dinner to celebrate the Society's successes. If you feel that you could offer any support, we would be delighted to hear from you.

# 1917 CLUB

If you would like to provide a life changing place at Pangbourne - then please join the 1917 Club.

Pangbourne College was founded by Sir Thomas Devitt in 1917.

Members donate £19.17 every week, every month, every quarter, or just once

*'It is clear that - for the right person at the right school at the right time - boarding school can be transformative.'*

Baroness Barran, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for the Schools System

To join, please visit [www.community.pangbourne.com/supportus](http://www.community.pangbourne.com/supportus)



The Pangbourne Bursary Foundation's mission is to offer life changing opportunities by providing fully funded boarding places at Pangbourne College.

Pangbourne College Foundation is a restricted fund that comes under the umbrella of Pangbourne College Reg. Charity No. 309096



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