

THE OLD HENDONIAN ♦ 2025 ♦



ISSUE NUMBER THIRTY-FOUR

Dear Old Hendonians and Friends,

A very warm welcome to another edition of the *Old Hendonian*. Once again, we are fortunate to include a wide range of material which will hopefully be of interest to all. My grateful thanks go to all contributors. Again, no school memories this time around – but no shortage of other eminently readable articles, including an extended letter from the Headteachers incorporating a special report of our 110th anniversary reunion – and not forgetting the slots from all our “regulars,” for which I thank them warmly.

Speaking of our “regulars,” former English and Drama teacher David Eadon deserves special mention. From 2012, he joined Annette Bruce and my predecessor Trevor Easterfield as a co-editor of the magazine. To mark the 2014 school centenary edition, it was a great idea of his to introduce the interview slot “David Eadon Meets,” which I was more than happy to carry on with after I took over from Trevor. David has also been one of our valued proofreaders, and I have very much enjoyed collaborating with him over the years. Sadly, the time has now come for him to step aside, and I am sure you will join me in thanking him for all his support over the years. His interview slot will continue under the guise of “Your Editor Meets” – perhaps with a wider range of questions going forward!

My usual thanks go to my proofreaders – and, of course, a special thank you to everyone who has made a donation to Friends of Hendon School, for which we are always very grateful.

With sincere best wishes to you all,

Alan Freedman – Editor

POET'S CORNER
FROM MIRIAM WEBBER ...

BIBLICAL RUTH
A School Memory From 1947

I was thirteen
when I first met Ruth,
during an English lesson
with a comely substitute teacher,
tall, pretty young Miss Allen,
who was madly in love
with the muscular
PT teacher

I knew nothing
of Ruth's history;
her husband's mother
Naomi, her sister-in-law
Orpah and the tragic death
of the husbands of all
three women.

I met Ruth,
so romanticized,
in the first line of a poem
by Thomas Hood, chosen
by pretty Miss Allen
for our lesson:

"She stood breast high amid the
corn..."

Miss Allen
stopped there and
asked her class what we
thought this meant. Being in love
she saw *herself* in the field of corn,
soon to be observed by her Boaz
the strongly built PT teacher
who would sweep her
off her feet and take
her to become
his wife.

Miss Allen
failed to consider
that she faced a mixed
class of thirteen year olds
for whom the word "breast"
was strictly taboo. Her answer
was an almost palpable
embarrassed
silence.

Miriam Webber, née Retkin
(1945 – 1950)

*PT – Physical Training, as it was called in the 1940s.
Today it is called PE – Physical Education.*

NEWS FROM OLD HENDONIANS

Mary Hendry, née Janet Gwyneth Mary Thomas (1936 – 1940) – our most senior subscriber – celebrated her 100th birthday on 5th January this year.

Her son, Neil, writes:

My Mum celebrated her 100th birthday at the Bankhouse nursing home, Lesmahagow, South Lanarkshire, Scotland where she has been living since 2022. Here is a picture of her with a book



we gave her, which records her life in pictures and words. On Monday 6th January, Mum was visited by the Provost and Deputy Lieutenant of South Lanarkshire, who presented her with a scroll.

Mum, who has always been called Mary, started at Hendon County School in 1936. During the Blitz in 1940, Mum, her younger brothers Gwilym and James (Jim), and mother Hilda went to live in Nottingham. Hilda was born in Nottingham and most of her family still lived there. Mum started work at a department store in Nottingham. In 1941 the Luftwaffe started bombing Nottingham. One night, a bomb hit the gatepost of the house where they were lodging; fortunately it failed to explode, but the family had to get out in five minutes. Soon the family returned to their home at 6 First Avenue, Hendon. Mum says she was not allowed to resume her studies at school, because she had been out to work and had missed too much – this was something she always regretted.

Mum joined the Royal London Insurance Company in Finsbury Square, London. She also joined a local sports and social club, the Cranbourne 20 Club. My father, Gordon

Hendry, was also a member. They married in 1955, and went to live with Dad's mother in Hendon Way. In 1962, my parents moved to Billericay in Essex. In 1987, they moved to Woodbridge in Suffolk. After Dad died in 2017, Mum moved to Auchlochan Garden (Retirement) Village, which is a couple of miles away from Lesmahagow.

Mum's brother **Jim Thomas (1940 – 1947)**, who lived in California and died in 2014, regularly used to write in to the *Old Hendonian*. Jim was born in 1929, and started Hendon County School in 1940 – but his time there might have been affected by the family move to Nottingham. Thank you for continuing to send the *Old Hendonian* for Mum. She enjoys reading and chatting about the past. She can recall events from over 60 years ago in detail, but struggles with more recent events

You may wish to include some, or all, of the above, and the picture, in your next magazine. I know that Mum is the most senior member on your mailing list, but I'd be interested in whether any other readers are aware of any other living people who attended the school who might have been in Mum's year [any responses please to your Editor in the first instance].

Richard Gould (1963 – 1970) writes:

I was at Hendon County between 1963 and 1970, in the era when E W Maynard Potts was headmaster. I went on to do a degree at University of Kent before teaching in the UK and the Netherlands. Following that, I worked at and then led a national educational charity. On retirement a few years ago, I furthered my career as a writer of fiction, writing as R J Gould, and I'm still an active author as well as being a trustee of a national food poverty charity.

I have fond memories of my time at Hendon County – and what an interesting era it was, with huge changes in wider society reflected in what was going on at the school (one of my novels touches on this).

Your Editor has received news about former member of staff **Eddie Oatley (1967 – 1995)** from his son, Allan, who writes:



My father has moved into residential care, as of late 2023. He is suffering with Alzheimer's and prostate cancer, and can no longer live independently. My Dad has never

used technology, but I do show him the *Old Hendonian* on my laptop. I also have a number of old black and white pictures from Dad's early years at Hendon. When I show Dad the old pictures, he can still recognise by name several of his old teaching colleagues – he was very good friends with Gertie Stranz. Dad joined Hendon County around 1967, after having taught in Tottenham County for a year. He worked full-time up until 1992, and went part-time until 1995. He took early retirement in 1995, but carried on doing supply teaching for a couple of years. Dad's main subject was Physics; I believe he may have also taught science and some maths.

He had many good colleagues at Hendon, and several have been mentioned in *Old Hendonian* letters. Dad was also a keen magician, and was involved in end of term staff performances. He turned 81 last year, and I am sure a number of his colleagues are still around too.

I am happy for you to mention myself and give my contact details for any old colleagues who may want to get in touch with where my Dad now stays [contact details available from your Editor on request].

On 15th April this year, **Martin Salt (1967 – 1974)** appeared on ITV's *This Morning* show alongside his mother Renée, a Holocaust survivor, to mark the 80th anniversary of her liberation from the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp.



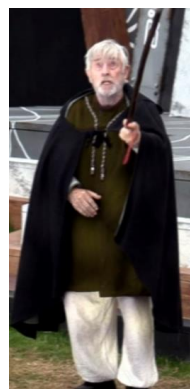
Renée, now aged 95, was a prisoner at Auschwitz, before she was moved to Bergen-Belsen, which was later liberated by the British Army. She went on to marry one of the soldiers, Charles, Martin's late father. Renée and Martin joined ITV to discuss her best-selling book based on her own experiences, and to reveal why she made it her life's mission to make sure the world never forgets the atrocities faced by so many during the Holocaust.

Martin is one of your Editor's old classmates – we studied music to O-level together, under the guidance of Charles Western. We stayed in touch after leaving school, and your Editor went on to be best man at Martin's wedding in 1982.

Reg Beckley (1942 – 1948) writes:

I was awarded a small speaking role in "The Winter's Tale" performed at Canford School. The part was initially offered as the "Older Shepherd," but has now become the "Even Older Shepherd!!"

Here is a picture of Reg playing the role of the "Old Man" in *Macbeth* at Brownsea Island last summer.



Turner's House in Twickenham is the elegant setting for an exhibition this summer featuring the work of **Sinta Tantra (1991 – 1995)**, an acclaimed artist who works in many different types of media. The exhibition forms part of a celebration of the 250th anniversary of J. M. W. Turner's birth. It re-imagines the artist's private world through a contemporary lens. Called "Light is Therefore Colour," the exhibition brings Sinta together with Eileen Cooper RA in an artistic dialogue with Turner's Twickenham retreat, responding with site-specific work that explores memory, presence, and transformation. "Complementing Turner's Kingdom: Beauty, Birds and Beasts" is also on view during this anniversary year. The show – which runs from 4th June to 26th October – explores Turner's legacy through contemporary responses to the house he designed and built as a personal retreat. For more information, please visit https://sintatantra.com/exhibitions/135/press_release_text/

SAVING

Sometimes, when asked if I have any goal in life, I answer that I want to be awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature. That may seem a less lofty aim, now that Bob Dylan has won it. But so far, the closest I myself have come – and in fact the only time I ever wrote anything that won any prize – occurred when I was still at school in England. At that time, not long after World War 2, Britain was in sore financial straits, and people were being urged to invest in their country by buying National Savings Certificates – equivalent to the Government “Bonds” which were heavily promoted in the U.S. during that War. One part of the campaign was a “Poetry Competition” which offered a small cash prize, and a chance for the winner to recite their winning piece at a gathering attended by a host of local dignitaries.

The main rule of the competition was that every entry must be entitled “Raising the Savings Flag.” Yes, I did win the First Prize. My entry was rather unusual, since it was in a form I more or less invented. It had seven stanzas, and each stanza had three rhyming lines. Here is a sample:

*To save some for tomorrow is an act
without regret,
For today's quick-spent abundance may
become tomorrow's debt,
And the future seems a long way off, and
easy to forget.*

Forgive me for indulging in the luxury of sharing all this with you – since it is my first such opportunity in eighty years. But my most enduring recollection of that episode in my literary career concerned finding myself in a situation in which someone in authority was telling me exactly how certain words in my own poem should be spoken. And what I most clearly remember was my own feeling of indignation at having some unqualified person – not my English teacher, but my Art teacher – being given power over me in a matter of literary creativity. Obviously, it was not enough for her that I had won the Competition, or for the Headmaster who had appointed her (an unforgettably imposing figure named Mr. E. W. Maynard Potts). In their minds, I would be representing the School (then called Hendon County School, but which still exists,

after various incarnations, and is now known simply as Hendon School). So, by standards then prevailing, the School must have a hand in rehearsing and auditioning my performance. Happily, all went right on The Night, and my poem was later published in our school magazine, and in those of several other schools in the district.

Of course, “Saving” has, in our culture, had significance far more broadly than just concerning money. Since the advent of Christianity, an idea has prevailed that believing in the right things, and abstaining from bad behaviour (also known as “Sin”) is the most direct method of saving oneself from an undesirable afterlife (also known as “Hell”). The accepted noun for attaining this status is “Salvation.” Jesus is referred to as the one who saves, or “Saviour.” Many hymns are based on this idea. One of the best known is called “Amazing Grace,” and was written by a man, John Newton, who had much to be saved from, particularly his extended involvement in the slave trade. “Grace” is another word, like “Salvation,” which connotes being spared a sinner’s otherwise-deserved punishment.

Hispanic culture and language are much more direct in using religious terms than those of the Anglo-Saxons. The name of a town in Texas, Corpus Christi, means literally “Body of Christ.” The word “Salvador” means “Saviour.” And there are towns, and even one whole country in Central America, which have incorporated

that word into their name. North American culture has tended to be more flippant with such concepts – at least permitting such ribaldry as “Jesus Saves, at Bank of America.”

But the word “Salvation” took on a new meaning, with the founding in London, in 1881, by a Methodist Minister named William Booth, of a group of evangelical volunteers who adopted a military configuration, and became known as the Salvation Army. They were usually seen to be preaching in the streets, braving the harassment of hecklers and even of stone-throwers. Gradually they gained some degree of acceptance, partly by taking well-known popular songs, and giving them new “holier” words. When he was criticized for using this tactic, “General” Booth is said to have responded, “Why should the Devil have all the best tunes?”



1947 – 1952



Barnet Council has received planning approval for **Hendon Hub** – the proposed multi-million-pound redevelopment of The Burroughs, the historical area of Hendon.

However, this is simply a statutory notice that concludes the formal legal process, and the council has put the scheme on hold indefinitely.

Last December, residents and other contributors to the 2023 public consultation on the Hendon Hub proposals were told that planning approval had been granted for the original plans.

However, in line with a decision previously taken by the council, none of the plans will be acted upon.

Barnet Council Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Homes and Regeneration, Cllr Ross Houston, said:

“We engaged with Middlesex University, the local community and residents in Hendon. A decision has now been made to halt the scheme indefinitely.

“As the original proposals were made at a Planning Committee meeting prior to the change in administration, a set of statutory actions were set in motion with the Local Planning Authority, and this notice is one part of that.

“However, I can assure all residents that none of the current proposals will be acted upon. Any plans in the future would only happen following prior engagement with residents and the local community.”

The award-winning **Brent Cross West Thameslink station** was opened on 10th December 2023, and has since become a popular destination for both commuters and leisure travellers living in or visiting the area.

Some 575,000 journeys were made to and from Brent Cross West in its first year, with nearly 2,000 journeys made each day.



A first anniversary party took place on the afternoon of 10th December 2024, led by Barnet Council’s Cricklewood Ward Councillors Anne Clarke and Alan Schneiderman. Together with commuters, community members and Thameslink station staff led by Marc Asamoah, they marked the occasion with a birthday cake, games and activities on the impressive station concourse.

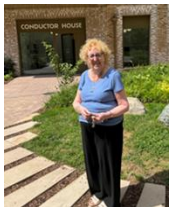
Councillor Alan Schneiderman, Barnet Council Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change and Cricklewood Ward Member, said: “Brent Cross West station has been a welcome addition to the neighbourhood.

“One year on, we can see the positive impact it has had in the community, making it much easier for people to get around the area, as well as helping us on our way to become a net zero borough. I’m pleased to see it becoming a well-used and well-loved station.”

The major milestone marks years of hard work by teams led by Barnet Council, one of the first local authorities in England to deliver a rail infrastructure project. It was the first mainline station to open in London in over a decade.

For existing communities, it provides new ways to get around the area and more sustainable travel options. With eight trains an hour at peak times, it is also transformative for northwest London, better connecting the Brent Cross area with the rest of the capital and beyond.

Celebrations have marked the completion of Conductor House and the relocation of former Whitefield Estate residents to their new homes at **Brent Cross Town**.



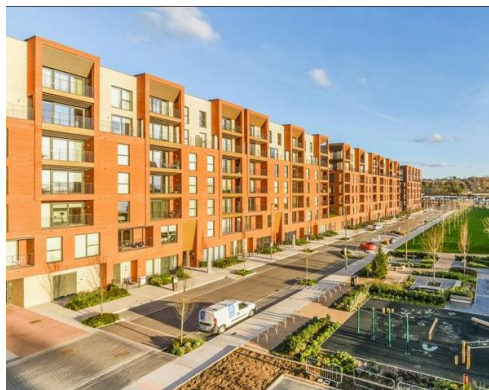
The moment was marked with a ribbon-cutting ceremony in the peaceful doorstep park outside the new homes. The ribbon was cut by members of the Whitefield Estate resident steering group who played an important role in supporting their neighbours throughout the relocation process.



The ceremony was followed by a community celebration in the evening where residents came together to enjoy food, music, and entertainment. Residents were also able to reconnect with their old neighbours and make new friendships.

Barnet Council adopted its new **Local Plan** in March, marking a significant milestone in the borough's development strategy. The comprehensive Local Plan will guide growth and development across Barnet up to 2036, replacing the previous Local Plan from 2012.

The plan aims to deliver nearly 44,000 new homes by 2036 in the most sustainable locations, including 'growth areas', town centres, transport nodes, estate renewal, and major thoroughfares. It also seeks up to 67,000 square metres of new office space across Barnet's town centres, a new metropolitan town centre at Brent Cross, and a



new regional park with three sports and recreation hubs.

The plan emphasises sustainable development with improvements for walking and cycling through a healthy streets approach, combined with more responsive and adaptable town centres, and space to support 27,000 jobs.

Barnet Council, in partnership with environmental charity Earthwatch Europe and local tech firm Pure Data Centres, brought together hundreds of volunteers to plant 1,800 trees at the end of March, creating three new 'Tiny Forests' in **Mutton Brook, East Finchley**.



Barnet's three new forests were planted over the course of one day thanks to volunteers – including children from Brookland Nursery Infant and Junior Schools, Kerem Primary School, Moss Hall Nursery, and Henrietta Barnett School.

The three plots, each housing around 600 trees in an area the size of a tennis court, will provide nature-rich spaces which connect to an existing Tiny Forest and urban wildflower meadow. They will provide a dense oasis for nature, with each one capable of attracting over 500 animal and plant species within the first three years. A

natural pathway will lead visitors through the Tiny Forests to an outdoor classroom / seating area.

Schools in Barnet achieved outstanding results in the 2023–2024 academic year, with many achieving well above the national averages. Schools from early years provision all the way through to Key Stage 5 performed well, with achievement scores placing Barnet above national averages, and much higher than in previous years.

- **Early years provision** (birth to five years old): 71.3% of pupils achieved a good level of development at the end of Reception class, taking the borough above the national average of 67.7%. Barnet's ranking remains in the top 20% of local authorities nationally.
- **Key Stage 1** (five to seven): Barnet's attainment in the phonics screening test increased to 83%, taking the borough above the national average of 80%.
- **Key Stage 2** (seven to 11): Scores in reading, writing and maths combined remained in the top 20%.
- **Key Stage 4** (14 to 16): For GCSEs the borough ranks fourth highest in the country based on Attainment 8** scores and third best for Progress 8***.
- **Key Stage 5** (16 to 18): 24.8% of pupils in Barnet achieved three or more A grades at A-level, well above the London and national averages of 16.2% and 17.2%. Barnet continues to retain its place within the top 10% of local authorities nationally.

Thursday 8th May marked 80 years since **V-E Day**, when the Second World War came to an end in Europe. In 1945, the news resulted in spontaneous celebrations breaking out across the nation. A national holiday was declared, and people from all walks of life came together to mark the moment.

To commemorate the 80th anniversary, Hendon Town Hall was illuminated in red, white and blue from 9pm to 11pm that evening. A two-minute silence was observed by the council and nationally at midday, to remember and honour those who



served during the Second World War. Elsewhere in the borough, many neighbourhoods held street parties, and the RAF Museum hosted a V-E Day celebration on Saturday 10th May.

Councillor Danny Rich has become the 61st **Mayor of Barnet**, after being officially sworn in during the Annual Council Meeting at Hendon Town Hall.



Councillor Danny Rich takes over from the borough's previous Mayor, Councillor Tony Vourou. The Mayoress will be his wife, Ms Laura Lassman. Councillor Rich has selected Unitas Youth Zone and the Jewish Deaf Association as his chosen charities for his Mayoral term.

Barnet recently hosted representatives from the borough's twin towns to celebrate the borough's milestone **60th anniversary**. Representatives from across the world including France, Germany and Cyprus gathered for a programme of cultural, historical and environmental flavour.

There was also a photo of the past Mayors, the first such photo since 1974, taken to mark the anniversary of the formation of the borough.



DAVID EADON MEETS...



TONY PEARCE



Tony Pearce was a teacher at Hendon School for two years, from 1974 to 1976. Whilst there, he met your Editor Alan Freedman, who was an A-level student at the time, and began a friendship with him which still thrives.

Tony also started a Christian Fellowship group which was attended by a number of students, including your Editor's classmate Dr Philip Corbin, whom he is still in touch with, and Sandra Benson. Sandra introduced Tony to a Bible study group which met in her mother Rita's home, and was attached to Bridge Lane Chapel in Temple Fortune. Thus began a long connection with this church, now known as The Bridge Christian Fellowship, which Tony leads as Pastor to this day ... now well past retirement age!

For more than 40 years, Tony has also produced a magazine on current events and Bible prophecy, called "Light for the Last Days." Interestingly, when Tony left university, he had the idea of becoming either a teacher or a journalist. In a way, he has been functioning as both, teaching the Bible in the church and writing his quarterly journal. 10,000 copies go to print, and it is translated into French, German, Spanish, Romanian, Malayalam and Chinese.



What made you decide to take up a career in teaching?

I knew I could teach – I was interested in people and getting information across. My first job was teaching English at a grammar school in Retford, Nottinghamshire.

Was there a person or persons who had a major influence on your career?

Yes – a Mr Keele from my own time at school in Bedford – one of the big influences in my early life. He was an excellent English teacher who encouraged me to be a writer, which of course is the other major interest in my life. He also promoted my interest in English literature and culture generally.

What was special to you as a member of staff at Hendon?

Hendon was a well-run school. In my first year, I was teaching English, and have good memories of working alongside Susan Marling and Dave Honney in the English department.

At the time, the school had quite a number of Jewish students, and we had some good Christian-Jewish dialogue. One day, I took assembly singing the Hebrew song ‘*Oseh shalom bimromav*’, with Jewish members of my A-level English class – Susan Brahams, Janice Levinson and others. The words ‘May He who bestows peace in His high places bestow peace upon us and upon all of Israel, and let us say Amen’ are so appropriate today – and I was reminded of this when we held a joint meeting with Jewish friends at The Bridge recently, which your Editor attended along with another old Hendonian, Paul Cole.

At the end of my first year at Hendon, the head of RE, Mr Hutt, resigned. The head teacher, Mr Ward, approached me about succeeding him. I agreed, but it was a decision I came to regret for a number of reasons – my second year did not go as well as the first!

Which aspect of English teaching did you enjoy most?

During my first year at Hendon, the fifth and sixth form were still Grammar School entry from the old Hendon County School, and I enjoyed teaching Shakespeare’s *King Lear* and Chaucer’s *General Prologue to the Canterbury Tales* to a very bright and receptive A-level class.

If an older teenager asked you for advice on entering the teaching profession what would you say?

I would say teaching is a good job – it gives you a great opportunity to express yourself and relate to people. Personally speaking, though, I’d hesitate to enter the teaching profession today, because I am not entirely happy with the way the education system in the UK is going – especially in terms of discipline, and some of the ideas which are being taught.

Can you tell me about any of the more memorable staff members from your time at Hendon School?

Dr Hans Freund looked after the interests of the Jewish students. Hans had a wonderful bass / baritone voice, and I remember him singing a solo in the school carol service at St. Mary’s Church. Later he came along to a party we organised, and charmed everyone singing Jewish songs and playing the piano.

Thank you, Tony, for giving up your time for our Old Hendonian readers!

ODE TO TONY PEARCE

BY DR PHILIP CORBIN (1968-1975)

WHAT SHALL I DO?

When heartbeats are no longer
chimes,
But feeble, soft and dull,
Beards are white and long-forgotten
times
Come floating back in an afternoon
lull –
Eyes are dim, dim, dim,
Just remembering...
What shall I do when I remember
you,
Mr. Pearce? I fancy a fierce
Flame of fire will leap in my heart
To lighten the memories a moment –
Feelings that can never part,
Linked, given, inherited, sent – by
you.
Whatever shall I do?
I shall think of the Communists –
Christians in far-off lands,
Of a green door and a tall green tree
in the midst
Of crusades, meetings and plans
To conquer Satan's world!
Of 'Baa, Baa, Black sheep', sung by
a girl ...
Of Faith, and prayer, and guitar
sounds
Of Fight, of grit, of hope
Of Character when your soul longs
To say 'yes' when the world says
'nope!'

Of tapes and cassettes, of books, of
times
When together we prayed and fought
Yes, when our heartbeats were still
chimes
And there was naught
But busy fighting day by day,
And we would sigh and we would
long
For a little peace in a desert place
Where we would be together, each
with a song,
Each having finished the race.
But life wasn't like that, so we
jogged through
When your motto would be unfurled
"Greater is he that is in you
Than he that is in the world!"
And I shall think of that ever-living
water
That started from a cross –
And that whatever is gain to me
oughta
Be simply counted loss.
But when all is said and done, I must
confess
I simply haven't a clue
Though I have thought and tried my
hardest –
Whatever shall I do?
Just sitting there and thinking
Tony, about you.

10th June, 1975

REG BECKLEY REMEMBERS



1942 – 1948

THE OLD HENDONIANS FOOTBALL CLUB AND THE NEMEAN LEAGUE – THE POST WAR YEARS

The “Old Hendonians” had been a member of the Nemean League, a lowly amateur league composed mainly of Old Grammarians, Social Clubs, and industrial connections since 1927.

A restart was made after the war in 1946 with two teams, but struggled to survive. This was due to the calls of National Service dislocating the recruitment of new young players, and the deteriorating condition of the sloping school pitch, at that time at the rear of the school. This often led to a crowded season and fixture list ... in 1953, the first XI played three matches in one day!

By 1953, the teams had been demoted to the lowest divisions, and until 1956 survived as one team, using 16 members on a rotation basis, on a borrowed pitch provided by Abbey National.

My involvement with the club during those years was spasmodic, as my employers provided better playing conditions, and I was fortunate enough to be in the Barnet Junior cup-winning team for Elliott Bros in 1956.

I was induced to take over the role of match secretary when the Pursley Road pitches in Mill Hill became available for the 1956/57 season. Changing accommodation was found at the nearby Canada Villa youth club, but washing facilities were rudimentary, consisting of two bathtubs in garden sheds filled by buckets of hot water!

The subsequent seasons until 1960 saw an improvement in our fortunes.

A jumble sale and Lincoln Handicap draw raised enough money to enable us to hire a double decker bus to transport teams to Pursley Road and use its school gym facilities.

These improvements encouraged stronger players to join, notably Colin Morley (ex Hendon FC), Geoff Parr (ex Chelsea junior), and Dennis Roach (future Barnet FC and famous agent). This resulted in all (by now) three teams gaining promotion.

For personal reasons my involvement with the club terminated in 1960, but others taking over, notably Len Longuette – pictured here with me at the school’s 110th anniversary – and John Ward, took the club to new heights, and by the 1970s had taken the five teams into the top divisions of the Nemean League.



MEDICAL MUSINGS



YEN YEE CHONG (1972 – 1979)

How we long for longevity

Valuing our lives, we might adopt the Spanish toast: “*Salud, amor y dinero*” – Health, love and money. Hah, money! As kids in Hendon, we always seemed poor and regretted it. As we grow older, health may be what we crave – but not even money can buy it. Some want to live to 100 and find the elusive magical elixir of life.¹

Our Hendon studies and leisure activities took up most of our time, although trying to be rebellious meant craving for the unhealthy habits of musical stars liking Sex, Drugs and Rock’n’Roll. But, minor smoking and an occasional excess of alcohol would be the most we could dare. Football, badminton etc. at 1970s Hendon School was more likely.

What we hankered for was consumption of latest gadgets: LPs (vinyl records to under-40s), nicer shoes and publications. Hah, such challenges in pre-internet Hendon! Now, anything on the internet is available 24/7. Finding and maintaining “cool” friends and social contact connections becomes ever more desirable in



¹ “How to live to 100” Jon Snow 2023 www.channel4.com

online life.

But, deep friends and family cannot last forever – we learn this from hospital and cemetery visits. How to live longer and healthier? No-one has the monopoly on achieving a longer and healthier life, but travelling around the world and my integrative medicine degree can lend insights into achieving longevity and health.²

Recommended Practices:

1. Regular physical exercise is a great longevity boost, but under threat in a sedentary 24/7 internet-based age. UK sources recommend 30 minutes exercise every day (e.g. walking, running, swimming, cycling). It's not just a healthy option, it's a necessity.



2. Nutritional balance – the industrial revolution means factory-processed foods became the norm, with salt, sugar, fats, chemicals and preservatives *de rigueur*. But these can damage your health. How ironic that many now focus on pre-industrial age foodstuffs, with less meat and more fruits / vegetables / grains.

3. Sleep in a modern 24/7 internet society sadly means that the “normal” recommended 7 hours of daily sleep cannot be assumed. Sleep deprivation from stress / modern screen gadgets reduce sleep, damaging your health and reducing lifespan.



4. Stress Management – reducing stress didn't worry 1970s sleepy suburban Hendon, but now that's changed, it is troubling. Improving your mental well-being through traditional walks, yoga, book-reading, calming classical music – all these come as welcome anachronisms.

5. Cutting unhealthy habits – smoking cigarettes, drinking excessive alcohol, Doctors' drugs too can be dangerous, reduce them where possible. Avoiding high-pressure work or social engagements; people drop lucrative jobs for slower-lane careers that bring them closer to

² National Centre for Integrative Medicine, NCIM Bristol www.ncim.org.uk

family and nature.

6. Social Links – Medical research on long-term health is not just maintaining good food diets, it's more complex. Mummy said to me it's not just about what you eat, but how and who with. Thus, dining with family and friends creates stronger networks helping reduce human stress, improve mental health.



7. Working conscientiously. Some people even work into their 70s – not just through necessity. Academic research suggests that people who are working later in life are not just trying to earn more money, it binds them with the local community and creates their sense of purpose. This positive attitude attaches them more closely to local people and improves physical and mental health.³

In Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM), we look for the happy balance of Mind + Body + Spirit.⁴ TCM 4,000 years ago postulated your lifespan is based on your Ancestral Qi body energy (aka family DNA), as well as Acquired Qi energy found in what you eat and do. When examining my patients, I view these human facets of Nature and Nurture influencing your longevity and health. People can live better, gaining a longer, healthier and happier life. It mainly comes down to what you do in life, stack any luck in your favour through positive thinking and beneficial habits.



³ Your Editor can certainly vouch for that!

⁴ "Chinese Medicine: The Web That Has No Weaver" · Ted J Kaptchuk, Rider publ 2000



Dear Old Hendonians,

Looking Back on a year of Passion and Belonging

As another academic year draws towards its close, it is with real pleasure that we write to you with highlights of our year. Hendon School continues to go from strength to strength – and our students endlessly impress with their passion, creativity and determination.

It was amazing to see so many of you at our 110th Anniversary celebrations in September; Hendon School holds a very special place in so many



hearts! This was an occasion that brought together generations of ex-students, ranging from those who attended in the 1940s to those who only left a few years ago. It was a heart-warming event filled with nostalgia, laughter, and memories, as the past and present of our school came together in a truly special way.

The afternoon began with a delightful tea, where current students graciously hosted ex-students, guiding them on tours of the school building.





It was wonderful to witness these inter-generational exchanges, as our current students heard first-hand accounts of school life from decades past. The sense of

connection between past and present was palpable as former students shared their memories of their time at Hendon, while also discovering the many ways the school has evolved over the years.

One of the highlights of the event was the archive display in the main hall, meticulously curated to showcase a treasure trove of



pictures, articles, and memorabilia from the school's long history.

Many ex-students were thrilled to find photos of themselves and their classmates, sparking joyful reunions and heartfelt conversations. It was particularly moving to witness former classmates who had not seen each other in years reconnect, reminiscing about their time at Hendon and the remarkable journeys they have taken since.



It was a privilege to hear the inspiring stories of our ex-students, many of whom have gone on to achieve incredible things in their personal and

professional lives. Their accomplishments are a testament to the lasting impact Hendon School has had on so many individuals, and we are immensely proud to have played a part in shaping their futures.

Pictured, left to right, are our Chess Coach, Archivist and Editor of the *Old Hendonian*, Alan Freedman, with Dr Philip Corbin, and Chit Chong – three of the four members of the school's chess team for the academic year 1974 / 1975, and seen together here for the first time since then, nearly fifty years later.





On Tuesday 1st October, we were privileged to host FIDE chess master Dr Philip Corbin, who staged a simultaneous chess display against some twenty-six students and two members of staff. It was a unique opportunity for the students to take



on not just any chess master ... like Alan, Philip came to school here, and they were old classmates. In his time here, Philip was the best chess player in the school. After graduating, he returned to Barbados, where he went on to be chess champion on many occasions. He has published a book on his best chess games, *Calypso Chess*, a copy of which is in the school library. It was a most enjoyable experience for all concerned, including Philip himself, who writes:

“After playing for Barbados at the 45th Chess Olympiad in Budapest, Hungary, it was my personal pleasure and privilege to stage my second simultaneous display at the school, the first having been nearly seven years ago. The standout game for me was a hard-fought contest against Minos in year 12. Thanks to the school and to Alan for making this possible; I trust that the evident ongoing growth in numbers and playing strength of the Hendon Chess Club will continue!”

On the last Thursday of the Spring term, 13 enthusiastic students from Years 10 and 11 had the opportunity to attend the London Youth Conference at the picturesque London Wetlands Centre. This event was a melting pot of knowledge, creativity, and

environmental activism, providing our students with a unique platform to engage with a variety of workshops and activities.

The day included an exciting pond dipping workshop. Armed with nets and trays, our students explored the rich biodiversity of the



wetlands. We were shown a 'legless lizard' or slow worm. They were thrilled to discover and identify various aquatic creatures, learning about their roles in the ecosystem. This hands-on experience not only deepened their understanding of freshwater habitats, but also sparked a new-found appreciation for the delicate balance of nature.



Well done to our Year 7 students for painting amazing fruit monsters inspired by Arcimboldo's artwork. The class learned about colour theory and mixing tones to match their



photographs. They improved their brush skills by using tone, texture and detail to create 3D realistic painting outcomes.

Hendon School students had the opportunity to attend the Commonwealth Day celebrations at Westminster Abbey on Monday 10th March! They witnessed the royal family, diplomats, artists and performers from all across the Commonwealth coming together to honour cultural diversity. The event was a powerful reminder that our diverse society is a rich one, and it's up to all of us to celebrate and preserve it.



We were tremendously proud to be the joint winner of the Outstanding Interfaith Partnership Award at the Mitzvah Day Awards. We were nominated by Blue Weiss from Citizens UK. He said, *"Hendon School is a school with a large diverse student population, in an area with a large orthodox Jewish population. The Mitzvah Day activity was not only about collecting for charity, but celebrating inter-faith positivity and building bridges across difference. Not only did Hendon collect 3000 items, but an enormous donation also – they got 20 students from a very diverse school to represent Mitzvah Day and*

diligently sort food into kosher and non-kosher. Both Gift (a Jewish charity) and Southgate Mosque were overwhelmed by the donations and show of solidarity. This to me was 'stronger together' in action."



This award reflects our school's commitment to fostering interfaith co-operation, empathy, and social responsibility through acts of kindness. Winning this award was an honour, but the real reward is knowing that we

have begun a movement for change. We look forward to continuing our work, inspired by the belief that together, we can create a better world for all.

On the evening of Thursday 27th March, the Hendon Music department held its annual Spring Term Showcase. KS3 and Year 10 students performed a range of music from many different styles and genres. It was amazing to see newly formed ensembles such as the Hendon Drum Ensemble, Pop Band and the Choir performing together so confidently on stage.

Highlights included self-taught brothers Karim and Amin Saban's piano solos, and Rubie Rees' assured vocal performance of 'Jealousy, Jealousy' by Olivia Rodrigo. The talent on stage was undeniable. Congratulations to all the students involved for putting on such an excellent evening of entertainment.



Hendon Alumnus, Dr Ian Ellis, visited us in March for National Science Week to present a case study to Years 10 and 11; they performed a gene diagnosis by considering how to ask the right questions and using their phones as a research tool. As a Senior Lecturer at the University of

Liverpool, and owner of his own practice, Dr Ellis offered valuable advice on how to engage with science 'beyond the test-tube'. Advocating for seeing the 'art' in science, he bridged the gap between technical knowledge and practice. Students learned the process of forming a 'working diagnosis' and how to read a family tree. Students loved the session, and took the opportunity to network with him afterwards.



One of our fantastic parents, who works for Co-Op, got in touch to let us know that they would like to donate to a community food bank. They wanted to know if we could help; of course, we said yes. We arranged for a group of students to go to the West Hendon branch

of Co-Op, where they loaded up the minibus with their very generous donation. From there, we then headed to the Colindale Food Bank, based in Trinity Church on Avion Crescent in Colindale, to deliver the goods. The students learned about the food bank, how it runs and how many people use it from the manager Pat and her colleague Ken, who were very impressed with the donation and also with our students' attitude and willingness to get involved. The Colindale Food Bank provides support for about 500 people per week and values every donation, large or small.



It was a great pleasure and privilege to host world-renowned molecular biologist Lord Winston (pictured centre) at Hendon School on Wednesday 27th November. A pioneer of fertility treatment, he is now Professor of Science and Society and Emeritus Professor of Fertility Studies at

Imperial College London. Lord Winston addressed HS6 students who

are studying science. His speech was truly inspirational, and gave a true insight into the reality of research at the cutting-edge of medical science. Credit is also given to the students for their engagement, attentiveness and preparedness for the talk.

We've launched a new rugby programme; boys and girls from Years 7, 8 and 9 have been showcasing their skills at the Saracens Rugby Festivals, taking part in a fantastic mix of tag and contact fixtures. The enthusiasm and team spirit have been brilliant to see! Our Year 7 boys and girls have also kicked off their T1 Barnet fixtures, building momentum as they prepare for an unforgettable opportunity — playing at the Premiership Rugby Final on Saturday 14th June! A huge well done to all our players — we're proud of your passion, effort, and sportsmanship. The future of rugby at Hendon School is looking bright!



Students in Year 9 Performing Arts attended the London Screen Academy on 17th, 18th and 19th March as part of their film-making project. This was a great opportunity for students to pitch their films and work with the LSA students in a stop motion animation workshop,



where they had the chance to work with and meet Oscar-winning and BAFTA-winning animator, Lisa Kenney. Students created armatures and had the chance to work in their million-pound facilities to create their own short animations using professional tools and equipment.

This year, Hendon School won the national award for Best Use of Technology / ICT in School. We were nominated for our large Audio-Visual refresh project and use of the new ViewSonic interactive screens. Our RM account



manager, Kerry Palmer-Roberts, collected the trophy on our behalf at the Education Today Awards in Central London.



In November, the wellbeing team invited Hendon's new MP, David Pinto-Duschinsky, to Hendon School to ask for his support in their campaign. Over the last year, the team have been campaigning for the Government to pay for a School Counsellor in every school in England. The team was able

to gain some initial support for the campaign, and will continue to work for full support. The students and staff also discussed the issues around funding for SEND and the movement of students into temporary accommodation outside of London. Students and staff gave testimony about the impact this is having on our current students. David has promised to look into some of the issues that we raised. He visited the HARP and was asked about how he got into politics and



what would be changed if he became Prime Minister. During his visit, David Pinto-Duschinsky and Rabbi Michael Pollock helped to plant two of the 7,000 Japanese cherry trees – or Sakura in Japanese – given to the UK by Japan to celebrate Japan's relationship with the UK. Hendon School was

honoured to be selected as one of the schools to receive the trees. It was a real honour to welcome our MP, and we hope that this will be the start of an important working relationship to improve the community for our students.

Year 10 Drama GCSE students went on a trip to see *Back to the Future*, the musical, at the Adelphi Theatre in the West End. The musical was based on the iconic film and did not disappoint. This was a high energy show with outstanding performances, incredible sets and costumes and



astounding lighting and special effects. At one point, as the characters go back in time, the car rises up on hydraulics, and it felt as if it was coming into the auditorium. The set changed seamlessly from the 1980s to the 1950s with great music being played live by the orchestra. For

their GCSE exam, students have to write about a live production that they have seen – and this performance will have given them plenty to write about!

Our Year 11 GCSE Photography class visited The Photographers' Gallery to study the art work of Letizia Battaglia and Deborah Turbeville. The class also practised their street photography skills in Soho and Covent Garden for the London Eyes Unit 1 GCSE project.



Hendon School's legendary Breakin' crew attended the 'Step Around Town' competition showcase at Acland Burghley School in May, hosted by The Royal Academy of Dance. The crew wowed the audience and gained many fans due to their high energy, impressive moves and overall

captivating vibe. We recently found out that we have also been selected to perform at 'Step Live' at the famed Cadogan Music Hall in South West London. The show will comprise of some of the best KS3/4 dance groups across London, and will be held in July.



Year 10 students took a fieldwork trip to Dorset and to the iconic Jurassic coast. We had six day-trippers, and 18 students staying on for the two-night residential. First stop was Hengistbury Head, where

we conducted coastal fieldwork, taking measurements of the beach width, beach gradient and pebble size, across three sites. Students noted the differences between the defended and non-defended parts of the coast, and we considered whether the theory around coastal management matched the geographical reality. We were pushed to be quick, as we were being chased by big rain clouds. We managed a bite of lunch, and then took a headland path back to the two minibuses.

As part of Holocaust Memorial Day, we were privileged to be joined by Jackie Young, a Holocaust Survivor, who shared his journey with us. The talk was filmed by CNN and shown on Holocaust Memorial Day in the UK and the USA. The students were interviewed, and expressed their opinions about why it is so important to learn from the past and the importance of using their voices for good.



In June, Hendon School was awarded The School Citizenship Award 2025 for our long-term dedication to cultivating active citizenship among students. This was a great achievement. The award is sponsored by @FirstGiveUK and was presented to Assistant Headteacher, Noelle Doona, in the Churchill Rooms at the Houses of Parliament.



On Thursday, 8th May, members of our Senior Leadership Team proudly donned period attire to take part in the 80th anniversary celebrations of V-E Day 2025. It was a day filled with reflection,



gratitude, and joy as we honoured the courage and sacrifice of those who fought for peace and freedom during World War II. From heartfelt tributes to lively re-enactments, the day was a powerful

reminder of the resilience and unity that defined a generation.

Thank you all for your continued support of our wonderful Hendon School community.

With our very best wishes

RHONA POVEY

CRAIG MCGUIRE

HEADTEACHERS OF HENDON SCHOOL



FROM THE SCHOOL ARCHIVIST

Your Archivist records grateful thanks to Brian Tilley, whose late mother **Joyce (née Brooks)** (born 17 July, 1921) attended Hendon County from 1933 to 1938.

Brian found the following among his mother's papers – all in good condition – and sent them from Canada to be added to the archives:

- *Mikado* programme – February 1937 – plus pictures in the *Daily Sketch*
- Carol service programmes – December 1937 & 1945

Joyce met Brian's father during World War II, and they married in Newfoundland in 1946.

Many thanks, in addition, to everyone who has provided digitised copies of material by email over the past ten months.

These valuable additions to the archives are greatly appreciated ... please keep them coming!



The full set of photographs from Sports Day 1948, kindly provided for the archives by **Reg Beckley (1942 – 1948)**, as acknowledged in the 2007 issue of the *Old Hendonian*, filled an entire display board at the school's 110th anniversary reunion at the end of last September. Reg was there in person to see them, and comments: "They were taken with a Kodak Retina which I bought, second hand, from a fellow Hendon County pupil. They were of German manufacture – and as the pupil was Jewish, there might have been an interesting backstory to it. My aunt worked at Johnsons of Hendon Ltd. – so she was my source of chemicals and accessories, as I did my own developing and printing."

Alan Freedman

Please send all communications to:

Alan Freedman – Honorary Archivist to Hendon School
c/o Hendon School, Golders Rise, Hendon, London NW4 2HP
freedmana@hendonschool.co.uk



It is with heartfelt regret that we report the following deaths. Our sincere condolences and deepest sympathy go to all families and friends, together with grateful thanks to all who have provided information. If you would like to add anything for inclusion in a future issue, please contact your editor.

Last year's obituaries included **Stephen Dresner (1949 – 1956 and staff, 1959 – 1988)** who passed away in August 2022, aged 84.

A number of you have sent in the recollections which follow (with thanks to Charles Jourdan for some extra material).

David Quy (staff, 1972 – 1977):

I particularly enjoyed the article/obituary about Stephen Dresner whom I always got on well with throughout my time at the school. I remember him giving me a good quality cigar once – I used to smoke one on a Friday evening to alleviate the stresses and strains of a teaching week – and also his eating his lunch in the staff room with his head covered, as I believe he was strongly orthodox.



David Lacey (1969 – 1976):

So sad to read about the death of another of my favourite teachers, Stephen Dresner. He was my first physics teacher in second year, and Philip Corbin's tale about the mirror challenge sounds vaguely familiar – I think he used it on our year too.

In those awkward few weeks between the end of our O-Level exams and the end of fifth year, I remember Mr Dresner getting us to do some extra-curricular physics experiments, the details of which I no longer remember, but the results of which were analysed using logarithmic and polar graph paper. I remember being in awe of this, and it provided me with knowledge which has served me well in my later career in telecommunications.

I did physics at A-Level too, but remember little of the course – even whether Mr Dresner taught it. But he most definitely did teach me in another class in sixth form – O-Level Astronomy – and I remember a great deal about that. It was clearly his great passion. There were only three of us in the class – David Campbell, Martin Reboul and me. A particular highlight, late in the second year, was visiting the Royal Observatory in Greenwich, followed by a visit to the Royal Astronomical Society in Piccadilly where we viewed some very historical texts, the details of which I have long since forgotten.

Remarkably, David Campbell drove us around London on this excursion – unthinkable now I suspect! ... Fair winds Mr Dresner.

Charles Jourdan (1963 – 1970):

Last year's magazine brought back three interesting memories.

The first was the obituary for Roger Lilley. He was the "boy down the street" (nr. 10 Glengall Road, Edgware)

who had done so well at HCGS that my parents wanted me to go to the same school, even though several of my friends were bound for Orange Hill – a choice that proved to be very significant in my life. Roger's name was on the Honours Board for his scholarship to the Royal Greenwich College.

The second was the sad news that Steve Dresner had died. He was, indeed, inspirational for many of us, along with Robin Fogg, Robin Stallwood Betts, Ivor Chapman, Gertie Stranz, and many others. These in particular were the creative minds behind the Staff Revue which had several of us students (myself, Phillip Spencer ...) being the stage hands in 1970. Before your magazine arrived, I mentioned to a friend this morning the way Steve reacted to me using too many numbers after the decimal point. After he gave me a grade of 9 3/29 out of 10 I have always thought twice about the way I use numbers. He treated his sixth form students as adults.

Thirdly ... Miles Spector's name was still being used to encourage us footballers in the 1960s.

Richard Painter (1968 – 1975):

Sorry to hear about the demise of Mr Dresner – he made quite an impression on me, and I ended up doing A-level physics. He had an arm-waving flamboyance or exuberance, and a slight swagger like Mick Jagger of the Rolling Stones as he walked around the class or taught from the front so enthusiastically.

I remember one lesson in particular still – he asked the class why steam at 100°C was more damaging or dangerous than boiling water at 100°C. We all came up with plausible explanations, such as steam would get into the skin or similar – but eventually, after we'd all failed to get it, he explained that steam had in it the latent heat of vaporisation that turns it from water into steam.

That I remember this around FIFTY-ONE or TWO years later says much about his clarity and enthusiasm!

Jonty Stern (1982 – 1987):

I always remember Mr Dresner's enthusiasm when explaining Physics. I remember people referring to him as "Doctor Who" because he looked a bit like Tom Baker, and had the kind of brilliant knowledge of stars and other planets that you'd only expect a Time Lord to have.

I also remember that he was very patient with my ridiculous silliness! I don't know if you'll want to print any of this ... but here goes:

We were once given an assignment to do at home which counted towards our final CSE grade. It was fairly simple. Two things would instantly get you marked down, and they were both highly avoidable. One –

I remember getting a Grade 4 in my mock CSE. My sister had told me that quite often people got one grade higher in their final exam (she was talking about O-Levels – no CSEs for her!) than they had in their mocks. I was wondering if that meant I'd end up with a CSE Grade 3 in the real thing? I asked Mr Dresner. In his very logical, analytical, statistical way, he pointed out that you might go up a grade, but then again you might go down a grade. You might start at the bottom and work your way up, OR you might do so well in your mocks that you get complacent, don't bother to study, and end up doing badly in the real thing. And so on. In the end I did, indeed, go up a grade and get a CSE Grade 3 for Physics. Once O-Levels and CSEs had been merged to form GCSEs in 1988, the equivalent of my exam result would have been a Grade E. Once the grading system for GCSEs was altered in 2017, this would have been the equivalent of a high Grade 2 or a low Grade 3!! This was absolutely my fault and not that of Mr Dresner. He was a great teacher and, wherever it is we go after this world, I'd like him to know that I wish I'd made better use of his excellent teaching skills rather than messing about the way I did. He is one of those teachers who particularly stuck out in my mind, years after I'd left.

Barbara and I were in the same class from the second year at what was then Hendon County Grammar School. Barbara almost consistently came top of the class, which

was a measure of just how bright she was, and remained, for the rest of her life. After leaving school, she went on to study English and History at Oxford, where she gained a first-class honours degree. She then took up a job teaching English at Berkhamsted Girls' School.

In the mid-1990s – also at Oxford – Barbara attained a first-class degree and Master's in Theology. She was appointed lecturer in New Testament at St Hilda's College, and Lady Margaret Hall, and her book *New Light on Luke: Its Purpose, Sources and Literary Context* was published by Bloomsbury Press in 2004.

Barbara married Roland while they were both still studying at Oxford, in 1970. They had only been married two years, when Barbara had a serious car accident, as a result of swerving to avoid hitting a dog that had strayed into the road. The incident, in which Barbara broke her back, left her severely disabled. Despite doctors thinking she would never walk again, she fought to regain as much mobility as possible, and was only confined to a wheelchair in later years. Barbara's situation became even harder – only 15 years after her accident – when in 1987, at the age of just 37, Roland, her beloved husband, suffered a fatal heart attack.

Despite her condition, Barbara and Roland had had two children, Corrina and Dominic, who were a source of enormous joy to Barbara, who became increasingly housebound over time. Barbara's health steadily deteriorated over the years, but she bore all the increasing challenges she faced with the utmost fortitude.

Barbara never let her disability and associated ailments be a source of self-pity – and certainly my own experience, whenever I visited her, was that she was cheerful, brave and caring of others. She was as active as her limited mobility allowed, including having a go at fencing – and her other hobbies included knitting, reading voraciously, and crossword puzzles. Barbara's unflinching sense of adventure also saw her travel, with loyal companions and family members, to such exciting and challenging destinations as Iceland and the Amazon rainforest.

Notwithstanding that a dog caused Barbara's accident, she adored dogs; and whilst her earliest one, George, was an assistance dog, subsequent ones were much-loved companions, on whom it was Barbara who had to bestow care!

In later years, Barbara became a member of the Quakers. The large number of members from her local groups in Aylesbury and Amersham who attended her traditional funeral and, given their belief in silent prayer, spoke warmly of her, reflects the degree of the esteem in which they held her and the affection they had for her.

I had actually lost touch with Barbara when we left school in 1967. It was my good fortune to bump into Barbara's brother, Mike, at one of the events for former pupils at the school many years ago; so I enquired after Barbara, which was when I first learned the sad news of her situation. As she was living in Aylesbury, it was

relatively easy for me to visit her, which I did a few times (but, to my immense regret, not enough!) and I also passed on news of her to other contemporaries of ours from schooldays, with whom I was in touch. So, not only did she have visits from some of those others, but also, one time, we managed to assemble a goodly number for a reunion at a venue close to where Barbara lived, so that she could meet even more of her fellow former classmates. I know I speak for them all when I say she was admired and loved by all of us, and we are all greatly saddened by her passing.



*Extract from upper 6th form photo for 1966/67 –
Barbara second row, far left & Judith far right*

Leslie Hyman (1949 – 1956) passed away peacefully in his sleep whilst in Israel on 30th May, 2025, aged 86.

Former classmate **Louis Herzberg (1949 – 1956)** writes:

Les and I were extremely close friends from 1949 to 1954, by when he had become religious.

Despite his best endeavours, he was unable to persuade me to join him. Though my mum was very devout, I was of very little, if any, faith.

I can still see his mum in the kitchen at their family home, saying how Les was encouraging her to keep everything kosher.

He used to work in the holidays with his Dad at his shoe shop in Broad Street, near Liverpool Street station. He talked about the very high quality, handmade shoes for the City financial elite, and others.

After my 23 years in Perth, we had only recently resumed frequent communication, including our sporting memories. He was a good athlete, a sprinter and a very good long jumper, representing Hendon Schools in The Middlesex Championships. We used to go to watch athletics meetings at White City. We saw Roger Bannister win before he broke the four-minute mile barrier.

I later did outpatient clinics for Roger when he was a neurologist at The National.

Whenever I was asked what was he like as a neurologist, my standard reply was that as a neurologist, he was a very good runner.

Les would have been the last of our group to reach the age of 87, on 4th July, 11 days after me. I had a medical student, when I was a registrar at UCH in 1968, who had been to Hasmonean Boys' School. When I asked if he had encountered Les, his face lit up, and he said, that yes, Les had taught him and been a very good teacher. The lure of the Law, especially Conveyancing, meant the loss of his teaching skills to so many students.

He went off to a Solicitor's cram course in Guildford, came top and was snapped up by Posners. My very deepest condolences to all.

Leslie wrote a couple of letters to your Editor about his sporting achievements, and a trophy he won, whilst at the school. This correspondence – and what it led to – is worthy of the separate article which immediately follows.



LESLIE HYMAN AND THE WHITLOCK TROPHY

The Whitlock Trophy forms part of the school's heritage and archive collection. Many readers will know the story behind it, but as it hasn't been recounted since the 2007 edition of the *Old Hendonian*, there follows a brief summary.

Harold Whitlock MBE – a former pupil of Hendon County – took part in the 1936 Berlin Olympics, where he won the 50km walking race. As well as the usual gold medal, he brought back an oak sapling – which he planted in the school grounds soon afterwards – and this trophy in the form of an oak tree, with an inscription on its base. The sapling grew into the impressive tree so familiar to generations of Hendonians, but was felled in 2006 / 2007 – officially for health and safety reasons because it had been found to be seriously diseased. It was rumoured in the 2007 *Old Hendonian* that another sapling, descended from the original tree, might be planted in its place, but that never came to pass.



The trophy still resides in the Headteachers' study, as it has done for many years. According to the 2007 *Old Hendonian* it was lost for a while and then found again; plans for a ceremony to return it to the Whitlock family, mentioned in the same article, never materialised. As the picture shows, the trophy is mounted on a plinth with brass plates which recorded, from 1937 onwards, which colour House had won the annual Inter-House Sports Trophy. All of this stayed long in the memory of **Leslie Hyman (1949 – 1956)**. He wrote about it to your Editor in 2019 and again last year. He recalled that there was great emphasis on sport during his time at the school – it was the era of Miles Spector and Ray Valentine, to name but two. As captain of Purple House athletics, Leslie specialised in long jump and the 220 yards race, in which he was unbeaten both at school and Middlesex area levels, but he struggled at longer distances. However, when he heard the Whitlock trophy was to be awarded to the winner of the senior 440 yards race, he was determined to go in for it, to “get his own back,” as it were, on the man who had presented the trophy originally to Harold Whitlock. So he entered the race as soon as he could, in the fifth form, trained intensely, and won it by inches in the Lower Sixth. Here he is, in his prefect's gown, holding the trophy he was presented with. It was only when attending the school reunions held in 2019 and 2024 – when the Whitlock trophy was on display – that he realised it was in fact awarded to the winning house, and his own trophy was quite different. Nonetheless, he expressed an interest in commissioning a replica of the Whitlock trophy.



Your Editor was pleased to facilitate a meeting for Leslie with Headteacher Craig McGuire when this was agreed in principle, but sadly never came to materialise as Leslie has since passed away.

HENDON SCHOOL



Hendon School, Golders Rise, Hendon, London, NW4 2HP

Headteachers: Rhona Povey and Craig McGuire

Telephone: 020 8202 9004 / Fax: 020 8202 3341 / Email: info@hendonschool.co.uk

Website: www.hendonschool.co.uk

FOUNDED 1914



THE OLD HENDONIAN

== INCORPORATING ==

**HENDON, HENDON COUNTY GRAMMAR, ST DAVID'S COUNTY SECONDARY,
BRENT MODERN AND BARNFIELD SECONDARY SCHOOLS**

Editor: Alan Freedman

email: freedmana@hendonschool.co.uk

letters: care of the School

Material for inclusion in the next edition should reach Alan Freedman by 31 March, 2026



All views expressed in this magazine are personal to the contributors,
and do not necessarily reflect those of the editor or of the school