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OLD SENNOCKIANS



SENNOCKIAN CLUB EVENTS

Right. From left to right: Vicky Everard, Kitty Jack, Lindsay Evans, Nick Morrison

Far right. From left to right: Christopher Cooke, Brian Hussey, Alex Smith, Barry Boulton



TENTH REUNION – CLASS OF 1998

After much networking and posting on Facebook, the class of 1998 came back to school on Friday 9 May to celebrate their tenth reunion. Following a welcome by Katy Ricks and a tour of some new and some familiar landmarks, given by John Walton, the guests gathered on Jockey's Platch for drinks. A lively dinner for 100 including partners and members of staff followed. One class member invited everyone to join him in London the next night. It was an unforgettable weekend enjoyed by all and ending much too soon.

JOHNSONS' LUNCH

The Old Johnsonian Society had lunch at Edwards Brasserie in Weald on 23 April. More than 40 OJs and friends attended. Clive Hutchinson, the driving force behind the OJs, has announced his gradual retirement and will be aided by Chris Castle in the future.

CENTRAL LONDON GATHERING

The Cooperage under London Bridge was the new venue for the Central London Reunion. On Friday, 13 June, over 60 OS joined Alex Smith, Phil Hulston, Paul Harrison and Mark Turnbull for a drink after work which lasted beyond 11pm. The 1990s and the class of 2002 were particularly well represented, thanks to excellent networking.

FOUNDER'S DAY

Sennockians, partners, children and parents came to Manor House on 28 June for a lunchtime drink and picnicking on Founder's Day. Many took advantage of the programme of music in the morning and then attended the prize-giving. Ron Terry (1937) was the oldest OS present and Libby Mears (2006) and Amanda Ford (2006) were the youngest. The Sennockian Club holds open house on Founder's Day and all OS are welcome.



40TH REUNION DINNER CLASSES OF 1968 AND 1969

On Friday 12 September, 38 members of the classes of 1968 and 1969, staff and former staff gathered at the School for the first 40th reunion ever to be held. It was easy to imagine these former students as mop-haired, free-spirited boys of the 1960s who had witnessed the Beatles in Knole Park. Mike Bolton greeted them and Charles Rogers made a graceful thank you.



CLASS OF 1975

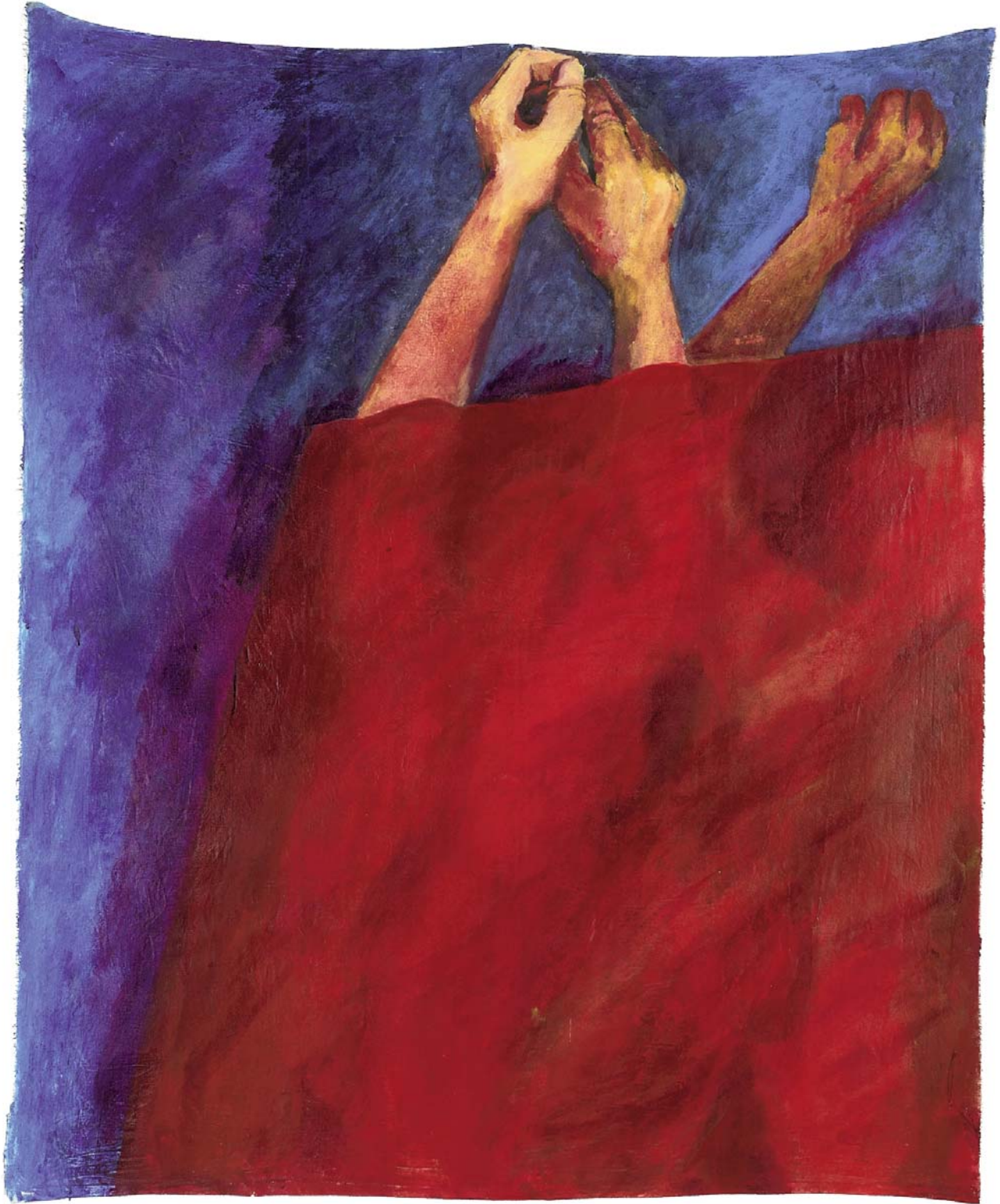
In September, Andrew Ingram brought together an eclectic selection of his classmates from 1975 who had no difficulty identifying the inner schoolboy and spent an extremely agreeable, often hilarious afternoon on the school campus and in Sevenoaks.

25TH REUNION – CLASS OF 1983

The 25th reunion for the class of 1983 was held in early October. Katy Ricks welcomed the guests in the library and spoke of the great changes that had occurred during their time at the School: the opening of the Sackville Centre, the School's 550th celebrations, and the announcement that the School would become fully co-educational. Ben Hall's after-dinner speech ranged from what it meant to be part of the Kent Scholars scheme to the pleasure of seeing John Guyatt sharing the celebration. A very successful party then moved on to the Royal Oak.



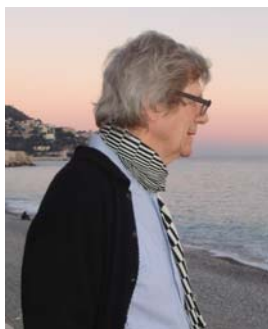
*From left to right: Fiona Hay,
Sue Carr, Su Jameson*



Bob White's painting: Between Cloth and Skin No.1. Size:132 x 109 cm

CHANGES IN ART EDUCATION: TWO ARTISTS – TWO TEACHERS

Robert S White taught art at Sevenoaks for 37 years. One of his students, Oliver Barratt (Hardinge 79), took over the Art department from him in 1994. They are friends and practising artists.



BOB WHITE

I was educated at Ardingly during the Second World War. Art was the centre of my life at the school; I spent every moment possible painting and drawing, encouraged by a charismatic art teacher. At some point, I don't remember exactly when, he asked me if I had ever thought of being a painter and in doing so he opened the door to a future in art. My father, a tough businessman, decided then to send me to the best art school, rather than 'wasting any more of his money' on school fees. Thus, as a very young 16-year-old, I entered the Slade School of Art and have spent my entire life painting, drawing and teaching art.

My arrival at Sevenoaks in the mid-1950s coincided with the visionary tenure of Headmaster Kim Taylor. The Art department, which we physically built, was situated in the coach houses of Manor House, and it was freezing cold in winter and boiling hot in summer. Kim Taylor encouraged me to concoct an Art curriculum that reflected his belief in the central role that creativity had in the development of a rounded personality. It was a most exhilarating time for a young teacher.

Changes in art teaching over the last few decades have been profound. The level of skill expected of A-level candidates in those early days was, by today's standards, extraordinarily high. The ability to manipulate materials demanded considerable commitment from students, which often went well outside their personal timetables. This resulted in an extremely busy department, opening at 7am and closing when the last student left – the teaching staff had responsibility until 9pm, students frequently used the department on Sundays and keys were kept in the boarding houses.

The level of challenge aspired to by the students in terms of scale and material knowledge could not even be attempted today. Twenty years ago there was much more room in students' lives, less supervision, less accountable, target-led time. Gombrich's dictum that 'the Arts are the furniture of a civilised mind' was held in high esteem. Was it such a golden time? Did the teaching only fulfil the National Requirement of high-level skills, particularly in drawing? Certainly at Sevenoaks it was not all skill-based; a precarious balance was attempted between knowing about art and making art.

Undoubtedly there has been a revolution since I started teaching. The galleries and museums are full and the young are developing an increasingly critical capacity. The sceptics would point to ways in which art is seen as a commodity and the lack of importance placed on drawing. Nevertheless, I hope that same degree of wholehearted and total involvement in the arts still continues.

OLIVER BARRATT: CHANGE AND CONTINUITY

In the summer of 1992 I was invited to supper to view a sculpture that a Kent collector had bought from my most recent exhibition. The collector's house was smart, the views magnificent – and, for the second time in my life, fate was waiting in the person of Bob White.

Bob had taught me while I was at Sevenoaks School from 1976 to 1979 and his blend of esoteric knowledge and a commanding, enigmatic presence crystallised my already growing interest in art. When he let slip that after a day's teaching he went home to paint, my future was sealed. Bob was then, I believe, the school's most respected, intensely serious and highly individual teacher. He had dedicated himself to the elusive process of image-making and commanded unrivalled respect and loyalty, repaying his students with a lifelong love of art.

Bob's kingdom was peopled with a rich cast: students who played jazz and went to English lessons with paint on their hands, who talked animatedly about the latest Francis Bacon show and who were marked by a lively self-confident



*Ollie Barratt's sculpture:
Skyline. Size: 9 x 6m*

imagination. They were known collectively as 'the Art room freaks'. To an open-eyed 13-year-old from a small farm in the country, Bob's art room was like entering Montmartre in the 1920s. Perhaps more significant than the lessons Bob taught was his ability to communicate the vital importance of creativity as a search for personal and cultural meaning. A legacy that has remained with me ever since.

Fifteen years after leaving school I had established myself as a sculptor, and undertaken major public commissions. I had recently completed a two-year Henry Moore Fellowship when I met Bob again. He too had been invited to supper by my Kent collector. He was as smart, energetic and engaged as ever. The conversation ranged from Bill Viola to Piero della Francesca's image of the Madonna – and Bob's impending retirement. I applied for his job and have been teaching at Sevenoaks School ever since, for the first six years as Head of Department and subsequently, as the pressure of studio work increased, as a part-time teacher.

The Art department I inherited from Bob balanced the competing needs of the IB and A-level. IB, which was at the time taken only by a significant minority, brought with it an approach to learning that was wide ranging and questioning, enabling students to enquire into their own cultural and psychological identities; A-level required a high degree of technical skill and in-depth enquiry into visual culture. A high skill level was set by the A-level, while the IB encouraged personal endeavour and the ability to see visual culture as a means to explore meaning. The synergy of A-level and IB was a compelling mix.

With a move to an entirely IB Sixth Form in 2003 some of the culture of the 'Art room freak' has been lost. But under Bob's influence as an examiner, it may be noted, the A-level syllabus has edged towards some of the aspirations of the IB, while at the same time the broader aims of the IB have begun to filter into the collective mind of art educationalists – a development that will no doubt shape the exams of the future.

The IB promotes a utopian vision of education – and, for the time being at least, a fireproof one. Symmetrical, balanced and logical, it produces well-informed, reflective and culturally sophisticated students who can question the accepted and analyse the world with confidence. In Art the IB champions the personal journey and recognises plurality of visual languages, and it is well positioned to address the ever-changing needs of postmodern culture.

Among the paraphernalia of the current Art department are clues to Bob's abiding spirit. The odd easel (with 'Art department' written on it in his sharp, distinctive hand), the drying racks and the etching press have not changed since his day and the practice of ambitious, often difficult art that challenges both student and viewer is very much in evidence. Embedded in the protocol for Art teaching at Sevenoaks School is art that addresses real issues, made with a conviction that confirms a student's sense of self. It is a mark of a good teacher that their light burns long after they are gone.

SENNOCKIAN CLUB SPORT



From left to right: Bob Wilkinson, Ben Spokes, Sahil Sharma, Richard Hughes, Ollie Jones

OS CRICKET

Thanks to the initiative of Ben Harris in organising an OS cricket team and to Bob Wilkinson, who was instrumental in the structuring of the Vine Cricket Week, OS Cricket has enjoyed a number of matches this year. The season began with the annual First XI v the OS match held on the Sunday before Founder's Day. The School achieved their second successive win, by 62 runs, with a fine display of batting and bowling. The First XI won the toss and decided to make first use of a slow but even wicket. Josh Parker with 61, Henry Wardley (21) and Dan Haley (36) got the First XI off to a good start, but at 93 for 2, three quick wickets from Sahil Sharma led to a mid-order collapse. The First XI partially recovered to post a score of 175 in 40 overs. Sahil was the most successful bowler with 4 for 24 supported by Chris Fletcher, 2 for 26, and a wicket apiece for Richard Hughes, Sam Wilkin and Oli Jones. Two sets of brothers had the chance to bowl at each other, Sam to Will Wilkin and later Christian to Jamie Dunnett. Fortunately, honours remained even. At 61 for 2 in reply, the OS were well placed. David Franklin formed the backbone of the innings with 58, including some characteristic on drives. Wickets, however, fell regularly at the other end with only Ben Spokes

and Chris Fletcher adding double figures. Once Chris and David were both run out the First XI bowlers tightened the noose. Josh Parker, in his final game for the school, finished the innings with a hat-trick and figures of 5 for 22. Battle will be resumed on Sunday 21 June 2009.

Ben Harris and his newly formed OS team were able, with the help of Chris Tavaré, to mount two fixtures at Solefields. The first game on Sunday 29 June was between two OS teams. On the following Sunday, 6 July, the Sennockians played against Homerton College, Cambridge, and were captained by James Marshall. Both teams fought hard in the rain with Homerton eventually coming out on top. On Thursday 10 July the Sennockians took part in a three-way Twenty20 competition with the Vine and Old Tonbridgians as part of the Vine Cricket Week. The Sennockians managed a seven-wicket win over the Tonbridgians. A highlight came from Dan Hayley who hit several huge sixes as he set up the Sennockians' victory. In the final match, the Vine's total of 209 in 20 overs proved too much for the Sennockians who fell short despite a memorable 80 from Ed Grant. This game included a number of fine catches – one outstanding diving catch by Neil Shirreff proved to be another highlight of the day. A great deal of thanks go to former Sevenoaks School Chairman of Governors, Bob Wilkinson for his hard work in organising the day.

FIVE-A-SIDE FOOTBALL

On 3 May some 150 Old Sennockians who left the school between 1989 and 2004 spent the day in the Sennocke Centre at the inaugural five-a-side OS football tournament. Twelve teams took part in all and were enthusiastically supported by their friends, wives and children. The Old Boys had clearly lost none of their competitive spirit; this was particularly evident in the hard-fought final where Lucian Weston's Trojans beat Kenny Groth's team, Laudrup's Choice, 1-0 to win the Sennockian Football Cup. The catering department provided a very good buffet lunch, and the majority of the

spectators and participants stayed on for the presentation followed by drinks in the Sennocke Centre. An evening in Sevenoaks bars and restaurants rounded up this hugely successful occasion. Congratulations and thanks to Alex Smith for his hard work which ensured that the day ran seamlessly.

KNOLE RUN

Ben Evans, Elliott Bourne and Tom Morris represented the OS in the 35th annual Knole run on 12 January. Tom finished first with a very good time of 39mins 44s followed by Elliott and Ben. Although the day was sunny, the course, of nearly six miles, was slow due to recent heavy rain. It is hoped that more OS will join the run next year.



FESTIVAL OF SPORT

Over 75 Old Sennockians competed in the seventh annual Festival of Sport. The OS hockey team captained by Livy Ainsworth won 3-1 against a very good school team. The match was umpired by current parent, Jerry Stanyard. This was immediately followed by a football match. Two OS teams competed against each other: the 1998 leavers captained by Ben Reynolds was beaten 3-1 by the 2001/2004 leavers captained by Lucian Weston. John Burger's girls football team played leavers and staff in a thrilling game capped by

Helen Tebay's third goal fired from 20 yards. The staff and OS came out on top 3-1. At the same time a seven-a-side game of touch rugby acted as the warm up for the final match of the day in which the recent 2008 leavers captained by Gavin Jackson played a team of assorted leavers captained by Josh Petit. The older leavers won 39-5.

BASKETBALL

A week following the Festival of Sport, Kris Lewis organised a basketball game between the School and recent leavers. The OS won, led by the Jackson brothers and aided by a team of recent leavers and one member of GIH.



OLD SENNOCKIANS' GOLF SOCIETY

Not for the first time in recent years, the weather dominated proceedings at the spring meeting at Littlestone in March. The forecast was not promising and did not disappoint: our band of hardy souls teed off in a light drizzle and a cold wind, but we had seen the best of the day. After a thoroughly unpleasant couple of hours, reason prevailed and we adjourned for a full lunch. The decision to leave the clubs in the back of the car thereafter was unanimous.

Next was the annual match against Wildernesse. We are fortunate to be able to enjoy Kent's premier inland course in the spring courtesy of Paul Kempton, and had another fine and friendly match in bright sunshine and excellent company.

The Grafton Morrish Qualifier at Knole Park was a disappointment – shorn of some of our better players, we failed to qualify for the first time in a number of years. James Howie and Simon Barker's heroic effort was not enough to make up lost ground.

Our match against the School failed to take place this year as a suitable date could not be found immediately post-examinations. We shall work hard to re-establish the fixture, as it provides a vital link with the School, which is our pool of talent for the future.

The match against Royal Cinque Ports in June was enjoyed by those present, although the home side represents a tough proposition, being handicapped around an Open Championship course, and we duly bowed to superior opposition. The season closed with our annual visit to Rye, a splendid venue which deserves more support than the eight players who attended. A good day was had, nonetheless, with the usual formidable lunch.

With the disappointment of another poor day at Littlestone and the cancellation of the summer meeting at Royal Ashdown Forest due to insufficient numbers, we have decided to move the spring meeting to Friday 15 May 2009 and the autumn meeting to Monday 21 September 2009. It is hoped that by cutting the number of events we may boost attendance next year.

Thanks to those who helped with organisation and their support for our events – we hope to do better next year. Thanks also to those who pay an annual subscription with little or no prospect of being able to attend – this enables us to subsidise the younger players where necessary. Best wishes to all our members.

Jeremy Smith, Secretary, Golf Society

MARRIAGES

Lizzi Bollinger (GIH 96)
married Patrick Teroerde on 14 June 2008

Chloe Bunn (Park Grange 98)
married Shane Breen on 8 May 2007

Georgie Campbell (Tammadge 98)
married Alastair Loxton on 20 July 2007

Rebecca Connell (Plender 98)
married Daniel Cormack on 7 June 2008

Lara de Quincey (Sennocke 01)
married Paul Dunbar in June 2008

Vicki Driessen (GIH 96)
married Gerard Brom on 14/15 September 2008

Tina Eisenberger (GIH 95) married Patrick von
Mallinckrodt on 7 June 2008

Olivia Freeland (GIH 98) married Siddarth Lall in
Kolkata in a five-day wedding ending 4 January
2007 and in Switzerland on 23 June 2007

Katherine Hardaker (GIH 97)
married Matthew Jarrett on 10 May 2008

Sarah Laughton (Hardinge 90)
married William Powell on 1 March 2008

Erin Lepper (Groves 98)
married Patrick Gardner on 10 June 2006

Charles Mill (Sackville 98)
married Clare Harris on 12 April 2008

Kate Muir (Hardinge 86)
married John Moss on 26 May 2007

Mark Samter (Tammadge 98)
married Vanessa Rashford on 2 February 2008

Alistair Warmington (Johnsons 00)
married Elizabeth Strachan on 26 May 2007

Katherine Woodham (Sennocke 94)
married Jonathan Batchelor on 21 July 2007

DEATHS

Jeffrey Amherst-Clark (Johnsons 46)
died in April 2008

Walter Ancell (Johnsons 50) died in May 2008

Tom Austin (Groves 04) died on 24 April 2008

Michael Barthel (Hardinge 69)
died on 12 March 2008

Gerald Bingham (School House 44)
died on 10 March 2008

Jonathan Bridgwater (Plender 80)
died on 22 October 2007

Gordon Davies (Fenton 41-44)
died on 4 August 2007

Joachim Herzog known as John Hereford
(Johnsons 41) died in December 2007

David Hoad (Grote 41-49) died on 7 February 2008

Graham Holden (IC 69) died on 29 May 2006

Anthony Jenkins (School House 36)
died on 8 January 2008

Patrick Le Neve Foster (Wordsworth 37-39)
died on 12 April 2008

Bernard Loughlin (Hardinge 35)
died on 18 December 2008

Lydia Press (Elizabeth 02) died on 2 May 2008

Raymond Rodgers (Johnsons 50)
died on 5 June 2007

Patrick Russell (Wordsworth 35)
died on 24 June 2007

Harry Talbot (Hardinge 37) died on 4 June 2008

Michael Varnham (School House 62)
died on 29 April 2006

Christopher Shepheard Walwyn (IC 64)
died on 9 September 2007

Jonathan Witchell (Sackville 93)
died in December 2007

Andrew Woodward (IC 76)
died in November 2004

OBITUARIES

MICHAEL BARTHEL 1950–2008

Michael Barthel, who emigrated with his family to Canada in 1969, died after a short illness in his home city of Vancouver. He joined Rexford Marine Enterprises in 1975. The business had been established by his father, and Michael subsequently became company president. His connections to the school run deep. His brother Steven was at the school as were his uncle Claude Kempton and his cousins Richard and Paul Kempton. His communications with the OS office were thoughtful and attentive. He is survived by his wife Louise, two sons and a granddaughter.

JOACHIM HERZOG (JOHN HEREFORD) 1925–2007

Joachim Herzog left Berlin for London at the age of eight. He spent three years in Johnsons, before joining the RAF in 1941 – and anglicising his name to John Hereford. During the war, as a member of a ‘spec ops’ crew that included a number of other German Jews, he tracked communications between German night fighters and their controllers, jamming messages and issuing false instructions. Hereford flew 21 missions in a Lancaster bomber of 101 Squadron in night raids over Germany. After the war he was sent to the Hermann Goering Research Institute for Aeronautics as an interpreter and analyst. Later he returned to London with his wife, the ballerina Ursula Vaupel, and began a career in hotel management – starting at the bottom, opening oysters at the Waldorf Hotel, and rising to become managing director of Securicor Group’s hotel business. He is survived by his three daughters.

DAVID HOAD 1930–2008

A member of a long-established Sevenoaks family, David Hoad attended Sevenoaks School where he made his mark on the musical and artistic fronts. After completing his National Service in 1951, he read Modern History at Jesus College, Oxford. From 1962 to 1973 he was Head of History and Housemaster at King Edward’s School, Witley. In 1973 he married Claire Shaw, a colleague at King Edward’s, and after two years at Cardinal Newman School in Coventry, spent a rewarding 15 years as Deputy Head at Farmor’s School at Fairford in Gloucestershire. He retired in 1990. David will be remembered as an inspirational teacher, for his involvement in the community, for his sense of humour, and perhaps most of all for his zest for life. He is survived by his widow, two children and five grandchildren.

Claire Hoad, widow

ANTHONY BLAIR DENHAM JENKINS 1920–2008

After leaving Sevenoaks School in 1936, Anthony Jenkins attended Sheffield Grammar School and subsequently enlisted in the Territorial Army. He joined the Westminster Bank, aged 17, and was called up in 1939. He served at Tobruk and in the Normandy D-Day landings. He was twice wounded and after his second injury was assigned to teach Allied soldiers in Brussels. He married Peggy in 1948 and had three daughters. He worked for the Westminster Bank (now the NatWest) until retirement. An active volunteer, he was a founder member of the Sidcup Housing Association and treasurer of the Betenson Almshouses. He loved to speak with people in their native tongue and taught himself to converse and deliver speeches in seven languages. He used this gift as an active member of Rotary International of which he was president in 1992. He was a golfer and a keen walker having trekked in the Himalayas twice, once when he was 70. The keynote of his life was his care for the needs of others.

Felicity Layton, daughter

BERNARD LOUGHLIN 1916–2007

Bernard Loughlin wrote to the OS office in 2005 to comment on errors on the data form accompanying his OS Newsletter. The mistakes were corrected and a notable correspondence developed. At first, Bernard wrote about life in Sevenoaks and at the School – where he arrived in 1927, soon to be followed by his three younger brothers. The family lived in town above their father’s chemist shop (now Payden’s on the London Road). Independently minded, and by his own acknowledgement perverse, Bernard joined the Queen’s Own Royal West Kent Regiment as an enlisted man. He twice declined a commission. ‘I was a complete fatalist,’ he said. ‘I was prepared to be shot if ordered to “go over the top” as in 1914-18. But I was not prepared to give the orders for the troops to commit suicide.’ He was left behind in Belgium in 1940, not knowing about the Dunkirk evacuation until after the war, and spent four and a half years as a PoW working on a farm in East Prussia. The privations he endured in the camp, however, were as nothing to those suffered on his forced march across Europe at the end of the war. He wrote at the end of his first letter: ‘I hope you have survived trying to read this awful scrawl. I would appreciate it if you are not tempted to insert any of the above in any future publications, but if you succumb, please do not attribute it to me by name. I have not really taken to the wave of nostalgia that seems to be sweeping the country at the moment.’ Five more historically fascinating letters followed, covering the period 1938 to 1947. Hugh and Tim Loughlin, Bernard’s sons, attended the School, and Hugh brought his father to Founder’s Day in 2007 where I at last had the pleasure of meeting him. Despite the occasional asperity of his letters, Bernard was an engaging and witty man – and one seemingly reconciled to the contrariness of modern life and to his own longevity.

Hope Pym



RAYMOND RODGERS 1935–2008

After attending Sevenoaks School in Johnsons from 1947 to 1950, Raymond Rodgers spent much of his life in Canada – in the Canadian military, the parliamentary press gallery and in government. He was awarded a PhD in government from Columbia University, and subsequently taught at the universities of South Alabama and Louisiana at Lafayette. Tireless in his work for Louisiana’s French-language culture, Rodgers was a key figure in the French preservation movement of the late 1960s and was known informally as the intellectual father of the Cajun revival. Returning to Canada, he focused on the educational and cultural impacts and potential benefits of technology – and in his book *Man in the Telesphere* (1971) predicted the development of an ‘electronic web’. At the time of his death, Rodgers was serving as President of Vancouver University Worldwide, the world’s first global university consortium. Consistent with the creative and intellectual leadership he had always demonstrated, Dr Rodgers was a catalyst for the expansion of access to university degrees through consortia-based programming. He is survived by his widow Lola.

HARRY TALBOT 1918–2008

Harry Talbot died at home a few hundred yards from the school with which he was associated for nearly 80 years. He joined Sevenoaks at the age of ten in 1928, having gained a Kent scholarship, and was a member of Hardinge House. The School then had 200-odd pupils, a dozen staff, one secretary and two cleaners. He won a scholarship to Peterhouse, Cambridge, to read mathematics, and during the war served in Europe as a captain in REME – having been permitted to complete his Cambridge studies on condition he read physics in his final year and joined the radar service. After teaching elsewhere, he returned in 1952 to Sevenoaks as Head of Mathematics, where he remained until his retirement in 1983. He married Ruby in the war and the couple celebrated their Diamond Wedding anniversary in 2003. Their sons, Tony, Graham and Michael, all followed Harry to the School.

Harry was Housemaster of Sackville, in charge of examinations for 18 years; Master in Charge of cross-country running, responsible for installing the first bell system; he appeared in the staff revue and was ultimately Senior Master. He maintained his links with the school after retirement; invigilating for exams; coaching; and meeting fellow ‘Golden Oldies’ (the retired staff association) – for the last time at their annual get-together at the school a month before he died.

Michael Talbot, son

JONATHAN WITCHELL (1974–2007)

Many of his contemporaries will remember Jonathan Wittchell’s passion for broadcasting, and it was clear that he knew what he wanted to do with his life long before he walked through the School gates in 1988. Instead of the written word, Jonathan (Sackville 88–93), who died on 15 December 2007 after a short illness, used the recorded spoken word for assignments whenever he could. TV and radio productions were frequent throughout his school career. The infamous ‘7’oaks Tonite’ (sic) television production was a Sixth Form highlight. The witty, modern spoof of the Oedipus

story was devised by ‘Witco’, a production one might expect from an A-level Classicist. And watching the video recently, I was reminded that the lead role was taken by Geoffrey Streatfeild.

After Sevenoaks, Jonathan studied at Salford University before doing his Masters at the University of Stirling. His career took off with BBC Radio Devon and then Radio Kent. More recently he worked for BBC Radio 5 Live and spent six months working with young radio journalists in Sri Lanka. This led to work on the BBC World Service – where his reports were heard by millions around the world. He is missed by his many listeners, and he leaves an enormous gap in the lives of family and close friends.

Richard Lockett

TOM AUSTIN 1985–2008

Tom, who died in a road accident in Bolivia in April of this year, was a member of the Sixth Form from 2002-2004, joining the school from Judd. Alongside academic credentials, he brought with him sporting talent and a team spirit which was soon recognised in the School’s rugby, football and cricket fraternities.



He entered fully and rapidly into Sixth Form life, becoming so much part of the group that several people later remarked that they had assumed he had been at the School all of the way through from Year 7. One of Tom’s special gifts was his great capacity for friendship, with both males and females, whether in the classroom, the tutor group, the sports field or social gatherings. The 450-strong

crowd at his funeral in St Nicholas' Church on 28 May was testament to this, as was the moving memorial service at the chapel in University College Durham a few weeks later, at which the entire rugby team he had captained turned out in their rugby kit. After achieving an excellent IB Diploma score, due at least in part to a very high standard of teaching (as he himself acknowledged), Tom spent three happy years at Durham, culminating in a 2.1 degree in Geography. He had been accepted onto the graduate trainee programme at the Financial Services Authority, where he had worked as an intern. Tom had always loved the natural world and been fascinated by South America, where his friend Jack Salt (OS) had died three years earlier. Having visited Jack's mountain, Tom was with friends on the top of the world, high in the Andes above La Paz, when the accident happened. He was truly living life to the full.

There will be a Sennockian Club cricket match in Tom's memory on Sunday 5 July 2009 at the Solefields Cricket Ground, followed by a barbecue, to which all Tom's friends will be welcome.

Sue Austin, mother

LYDIA CORFE PRESS 1984-2008

Lydia Press died in a mountaineering accident near Mont Blanc on 2 May 2008.

Lydia followed her sister Naomi to Sevenoaks in 1995 with an academic scholarship and will be remembered for her enthusiasm in climbing, badminton, D of E and music. In her gap year she was invited by former school friends to take part in a chamber production of Purcell's *Dido & Aeneas* at The Edinburgh Festival Fringe; she then became a choral scholar at St Martin in the Fields.

At St Peter's College, Oxford, music remained a huge interest and she sang with Schola Cantorum and Commotio, including on recordings, broadcasts and overseas tours. She represented the university at badminton, although mountaineering was her real passion. Having trained in Wales and Scotland whilst still at school, she subsequently

made expeditions to many parts of Europe and became President of the Oxford University Mountaineering Club.

In the summer of 2006 she undertook fieldwork in Cambodia on behalf of Action Contre la Faim, studying groundwater contamination for her Master's dissertation in Earth Science. She graduated in 2007 having presented the research at The Goldschmidt Symposium in Cologne. At the time of her death she was studying Environmental Policy at the Central European University in Budapest, and characteristically, was the student faculty representative. An edition of *The Journal of Geochemistry*, a Hyperion recording of Randall Thompson's music and several concerts have been dedicated to her memory.

Lydia was a cheerful, gregarious person with a wide circle of friends, and many have expressed what an inspiration she was – and still is – to them. If there is any solace to be found in the tragic death of one so young, with so much untapped potential to effect change in the environmental or humanitarian sphere, perhaps it will be through sustaining a memory of that inspiration.

Nigel Press, father



NOTES FROM HOME AND ABROAD

1930–1949

Jean Yamniak (Johnsons 30) died at Buchenwald in 1945. He is listed on the convoy of 111 'French' internées taken from Auschwitz to Buchenwald on 22 January 1945. His name is on the Holocaust memorial Shoah.

Barry Boulton (Fenton 47) sings bass with the 120-strong London Welsh Male Voice Choir. They will be touring the UK and the United States until December 2009 with venues at Winchester Cathedral, Eton College and Birmingham Town Hall. Visit www.londonwlshmvc.org for details.

Harold Cannon (Fenton 49) writes, 'My books on teaching and learning are still in print and selling after 11 years. They have appeared in Arabic, French, Chinese and Korean. Betty and I continue to live very happily in our retirement community in Southwick, Massachusetts. Old Sennockians (especially those of WW2 vintage) visiting the Pioneer Valley are encouraged to make contact.'

1950–1959

Brian Storey (Wordsworth 52) and his wife who hails from New York operate an event management business. They live in the Barossa Valley of South Australia where his wife is a consultant to the Barossa wine makers. He owes his career in the travel industry to his love of Geography and is indebted to Ronald Wheeler for teaching him German. He still speaks the language quite well, having worked for a German company and is a member of a German-language men's choir in the Barossa. He was last in the Sevenoaks area two years ago for the funeral of his oldest friend, Michael Busselle, when he stayed with Lawrence Waters.

Christopher Holgate (Wordsworth 55) appeared as a Tudor cleric in *The Other Boleyn Girl*, shot at Knole, Hever and Dover Castle. Formerly a book designer with Methuen, he now works part-time at Knole for the National Trust.

Richard Wilkes (Johnsons 56) does voluntary work for the Ramblers' Association, The Maritime Museum at Greenwich and School Governance. He helps run a choral society and a madrigal group in which he also sings.

1960–1969

Christopher Cooke (Wordsworth 62) spent the earlier part of his professional life as an architect and specialist in the conservation of ancient monuments and historic buildings, first for the Department of the Environment and latterly for English Heritage. However, some years ago he decided to train as a classical ballet dancer – a career he had always wanted to follow. He won a place at the Royal Academy of Dance to study Dance Notation and Choreology, dance compositions and interpretation. As a spin-off, he became involved with the promotion of ballet for mature students and adults and is a fanatical supporter of dance education, having connections to the Royal Ballet School and the Central School of Ballet. He is now on the committee of the Friends of the Central School of Ballet and some years ago inaugurated an annual choreographic competition within the school, which he still promotes and funds.

Peter Green (Fryth 67) works as a forensic physician and is also the designated doctor and consultant in safeguarding children at St George's Hospital, London.

William Grut (Fryth 69) writes, 'Mick Audsley is here in Vancouver at the moment editing a Terry Gilliam film (the last one in which Heath Ledger appeared). He is also working on a screenplay of a Clare Morrall book. I will try to drag him away from the cutting room and get him onto a ski-slope. The Rose programs are going well. We have got a big drive going in Vietnam where we recently got registration. We are putting together an integrated eye program, sponsored by one of the big banks and called "Seeing is Believing". It will cover all aspects from Braille teaching to

corneal transplants. We marked our tenth anniversary with an event in Penang. Also new for us is a schools project in Madagascar, a place I have yet to visit but which sounds intriguing.'

1970–1979

Richard Bremner (Fenton 71) writes that he is converting a small cottage with a friend to do up and sell. Hobbies include singing in local operatics, running and flying. He part owns a microlight aircraft and also flies a powered hang glider.

Steve Read (Fryth 74) is now chief scientist of Forestry Tasmania, the state government organisation that manages Tasmania's state forests, after 17 years at the University of Melbourne, as an academic in botany then forestry.

1980–1989

Simon Burgess (Park Grange 81) is the Labour Parliamentary Candidate for the seat of Brighton Kemptown, currently held by Labour.

Bill Woodroffe (School House 84) is the director of flipfurniture. He created and designed the Flip table with Tim Popham (IC 84).

Piero Benazzo (Johnsons 85) is currently working in Stockholm for the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control.

Kate Moss née Muir (Hardinge 86) finds it easier to make restaurant bookings under her married name. She was appointed Senior Adult Psychotherapist in the Department of Dermatology at St Thomas' Hospital, London in September 2006, researching the interface between skin and psyche.

Kevin Mulley (Sackville 85) is IT Support Engineer for an international bank and manages the various local onsite support teams around the world as well as network, servers and software administration (including all the special trading applications they require). When he gets time he

also helps teach English to other members of the team, which he did for a few years at a college for Adult Education. He, his wife and two daughters (five and ten years old) live in the country just outside Osnabrück.

Gabriella Braun née Ray (GIH 86) has a background in music performance and education, and works with her husband Terry Braun across a range of Illuminations Interactive's output. Gabi has had specific responsibility for developing and producing music-driven media projects, both broadcast and multimedia. Her websites on Harrison Birtwistle and György Ligeti have brought Illuminations Interactive an international reputation for interpreting complex contemporary music via the internet. Their latest venture will continue to create interactive multimedia installations and CD-Roms, as well as online services for museums, galleries, orchestras, broadcasters, universities and other major cultural institutions.

Roger Ridsdill-Smith (Fenton 86) was Arup's Project Director on the Millennium Footbridge. He played a lead role in the conceptual team project and ran the construction contract.

Nick Wergan (Hardinge 86) has been awarded the 2007 TDA Outstanding New Teacher of the Year. He teaches English at the Sackville Community College in East Grinstead.

Seema Alibhai (GIH 88) writes, 'I have just started a new job as Director of Corporate Communications for MTN Networks International, a global role based in London.'

Rebecca Willis (GIH 90) is vice-chair of the Sustainable Development Commission, a government advisory body; she also freelances on environmental policy issues – at the moment for the Lake District National Park, helping them formulate a response to climate change; and for Green Alliance on policies to encourage 'green behaviour'. She has two sons (aged two and four).

1990–1999

Rob Ash (formerly Ashkuri) (Johnsons 91) and his wife Mhairi run a small hotel in Moffat. (www.hartfellhouse.co.uk.)

Glen Inanga (IC 1991) writes, 'Things are going well at the University College of the Cayman Islands (www.ucci.edu.ky) where I am developing their music programme. My inaugural piano recital, the first in the history of the institution, was well received. I came across one of my former Sevenoaks piano students, Andrew Jack (currently at Oxford), who is the son of the current Governor of the Cayman Islands. I discovered that his other siblings are Old Sennockians too. I have also been very involved in the Cayman Arts Festival which my duo partner and I set up in 2004. A highlight was the Singapore International Piano Festival in July 2008, for which we gave the opening concert.'

Rod Bailey (Sackville 92) has had two books published in 2008: *Forgotten Voices of the Secret War* and *The Wildest Province: SOE in the Land of the Eagle*. Max Hastings reviewing *The Wildest Province* in *The Times* cites Rod's exemplary achievement.

Chris Dalgarno-Platt (Fenton 93) is a Chartered Accountant with Argyll and Bute Council and now the Finance Manager for Special Projects. In the past couple of years he has overseen the Council's rebuilding of schools across the region. He and his wife Laura welcomed their third son Evan Tait into the world in April, joining Aidan Balfour and Orin Alden.

Sally Mills née Hackett (Fryth 93) and her husband Ryan are proud parents of twin boys, Albert and Archie, born on 28 February 2008, brothers for Amelie.

Felicity Powell née Allum (Tammadge 93) has been in New Zealand for over eight years. She has taken a break from teaching after the birth of their daughter Florence.

Kee Tay Tan (Johnsons 93) is a solicitor running a Service Apartment in Penang Island. If ever any Sennockians are planning to visit Malaysia, please get in touch.

Kathryn Batchelor née Woodham (Sennocke 94) was married on the lawn of Claridge House in the summer of 2007, ten days after receiving her doctorate in the translation of Francophone African literature into English. She is a lecturer in French and Francophone Studies at the University of Nottingham.

Claudia Grimm née Ehrke (Sennocke 95) and her husband Guenter became parents of Sophia and Hugo on 15 January 2008.

Andrew Kennett (Taylor 96) was appointed Director General Training Support in the rank of Major General in January 2008.

Helen Pank née Standring (Caxton 96) left the UK in November 2007 with her husband Charlie to travel the world, crewing on other people's boats. She hopes to reach New Zealand via Tahiti, the Cook Islands, Samoa, Tonga and Fiji by November 2008. The return journey will be on motorbike through China, India, Russia and Europe.

Sarah Bateau née Randall (Fryth 97) returned to the UK having spent two years teaching the IB in Brazil with her husband Dominic. They will both be teaching in Bristol.

Julie Aspden née Batley (Sackville 98) is in a post-doctoral programme in Biochemistry at Berkeley.

Chloe Breen née Bunn (Park Grange 98) and her husband Shane announce the birth of their daughter Lorna May Honeybunn Breen on 23 May 2007.

Rebecca Connell (Plender 98) will see her first novel, *The Art of Losing*, published by Fourth Estate in the bookshops by April 2009.

Dave Skinner (School House 98) is living in Bergen, Norway, with his wife Ragnhild Knutsen.

JP West (School House 98) and his wife Lucy had a son, Luke born in February 2008, a brother for Jack.

Alex Bamji (Caxton 99) completed her PhD in History on the relationship between religion and disease in 17th century Venice and taught for a year at the University of Glasgow. From September 2008 she has a permanent place in the History department at Leeds University.

Andrew Smith (Fryth 99) moved to Australia in December 2007 after two years working for Capgemini in London, to work for the same firm in Sydney. He is enjoying the beach lifestyle, spectacular scenery, climate and infamous Aussie barbecues.

2000–2008

Alexandra Gabriel-Bayston (GIH 00) is engaged to Scott Arnott.

Georgina Wolfe (Sennocke 00) co-authored *The Path to Pupillage* with Alexander Robson which was published by Sweet and Maxwell in February 2008.

Joe Munn-Mace (IC 01) received his Masters in Automotive Engineering and is now working for Ford in Basildon.

Antoine Martin (IC 02) starts work in October at Imperial College London on an MSc in Environmental Technology.

Chris Smith (Johnsons 02) was commissioned in December 2007 into the Parachute Regiment, along with Richard Wilton who was commissioned into the Rifles Regiment. They both went through three months further infantry training in Wales, followed by parachute training for Chris. He reported to his battalion in Helmand Province in May 2008. Chris and Richard have remained close friends since leaving school, having shared the same room in Johnsons for five years.

Alethea Vane Hier (GIH 02) is completing an MSc in the new field of Dance Science which draws together the areas of physiology, psychology, biomechanics and somatics to enhance training for professional dancers. Currently she is observing and shadowing a freelance dancer who is touring the UK and Europe.

Ai San Lim (GIH 03) is an assistant director in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Kuala Lumpur.

Andrew Tam (Groves 03) worked for Allies and Morrison, one of three architectural firms involved with the 2012 London Olympics before going to Zurich to work for EM2N. He begins part two of his architectural degree at the Architectural Association in September.

Emma Kenny (Caxton 05) has been awarded the Michael von Clemm Fellowship to study as a special student for a year at the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences of Harvard University beginning in September 2008.

Emma Presern (Sennocke 05) started medicine at St Bart's in London in September 2008 following her first degree in Anatomy at Bristol.

Casper ter Kuile (Tammadge 05) has been selected to represent the UK in a World Wildlife Fund voyage to the Arctic. He finished his year abroad in Berlin and will graduate from Warwick in 2009 with a BA in History and Sociology. See his blog: www.caspersarcticvoyage.wordpress.com

Olivia Howie (Hardinge 07) is studying Music and Drama at Manchester. Courses include modules in Art of Film, Introduction to Drama, Performance, Western Music, the Singing Actor and Early Opera. Aside from the music and drama societies, she is a social tennis member.

Teddy Nicholson (School House 07) has spent his gap year working on the campaign trail to elect Barack Obama.

Matthew Burrard-Lucas (KJM 08) has a featured article in Spring 2008 issue of *Nature's Best Photography* on his experiences in the Virunga Mountains of Rwanda on the trail of mountain gorillas.

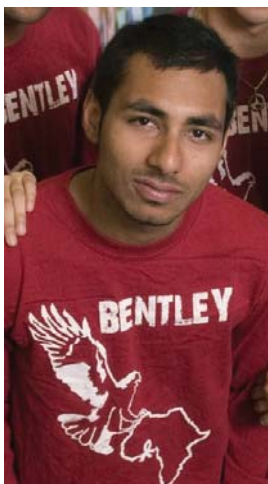
Danny Caprice (IC 08), Findlay Scholar, has been invited to play for Samurai International in the Newquay Sevens tournament in July.

OS SPOTLIGHTS

Alexander Bodin Saphir (97) is following his film short *Winds of Sand* around the international festival circuit. Shot on location in the Negev desert by an Israeli and Palestinian cast and crew, it premiered at the Shanghai International Film Festival in June. The film tells the story of two enemy combatants locked in a continuous spiral of violence, hatred and regret. Alexander's company Breaking Productions is working on a feature based on the same two characters.



Di Day celebrated her 90th birthday at St Julian's on 5 June 2008. The party was organised by Tony and Jill Theaker and attracted a raft of past members of staff including Jonty Driver, Alan Hurd, Neil Patterson, Kim Taylor and Ray and Jill Hackett. James Jones, former school Chaplain and currently Bishop of Liverpool could not attend but sent in a homemade recording of *Thought for the Day* which he renamed 'Di's Day'. Kim Taylor spoke of Di's contribution to VSU, her secretarial skills and how she always made herself available to all staff. Entertainment was provided by Peter Young and Anthony and Jane Dawson singing 'Come in from the Garden, Di'. But it was Di, remembering her father's injunction to follow her destiny and take up the position of secretary to the Head, James Higgs-Walker in 1954, which was the most inspiring moment of the day.

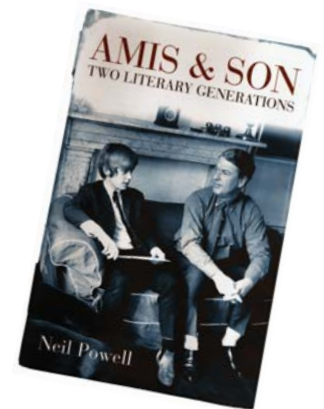


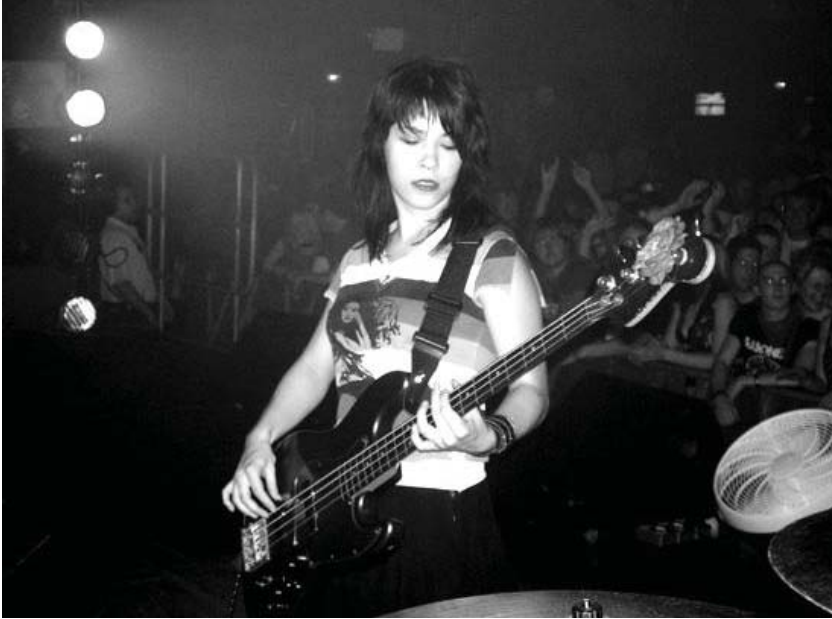
Vinay Gokaldas (06), in his second year at Bentley College in Boston, headed a campaign which raised \$5320 for an Aids charity and the Mmofra Trom Center, a hospice in Ghana for 18 children orphaned by Aids. Vinay kick-started the campaign, called Bentley Goes Red for Africa, by printing red T-shirts emblazoned with the school mascot, a falcon, carrying the outline of a map of Africa. These sold out in four days. An evening of Ghanaian food, African Dance and presentations followed. As momentum grew, various campus organisations joined forces to take part in a unified fund-raising action. Vinay defines himself as both Indian and African and grew up 20 miles from the Mmofra Trom Center. His outlook is international,

but his heart is in Ghana where he hopes to build his future. The money raised will go toward building a dormitory at the Center for affluent international students to study, with the aim of making the project self-sufficient.

Infestation Piece (Musselled Moore) is the title of 1986-leaver Simon Starling's latest work. A copy of a controversial Moore sculpture (purchased by the Power Plant Gallery in Toronto in 1954 against protests from Canadian artists who felt the money should be spent on indigenous artists) was submerged in 2006 in Lake Ontario, where it was colonised by alien and highly adaptable zebra mussels which are themselves disturbing the balance of the natural lake species. The piece was retrieved from the lake in February and was exhibited at the Power Plant from 1 March to 11 May 2008.

Amis & Son: Two Literary Generations by Neil Powell (66) was published by Macmillan in the spring. Powell brings to it his experience as author, poet and critic, creating a book larger than the sum of its parts. Gaps in both men's lives are filled with fact and comment until what emerges is a living picture of the post-war English writing scene and its legacy.





Jenni Tarma (00) is bass guitarist for Kylie Minogue. In her words, it's like a non-stop vacation, paid for by someone else. While on the bus between gigs, she has knitted 50 wristbands for people on the tour – including one embroidered 'KM'. She is also in the process of starting a T-shirt and clothing line.

Timmo Lumme (79) the International Olympic Committee's director of television and marketing services, wrote before the 2008 Olympics to say: 'For the first time in Olympic history we will have complete global online coverage. The IOC's channel will make fantastic Olympic footage available where young generations of sports fans are already going for online entertainment.' He added that the aim of the agreement with YouTube was to 'complement' the footage offered by traditional broadcast partners. By offering free content, the IOC also hopes to limit illegal viewing of the sporting extravaganza.



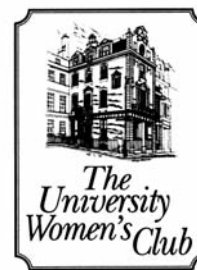
Martin Sinha (70), Professor of Geology and Geophysics at the National Oceanography Centre at Southampton University, has been awarded the Geological Society's William Smith Medal for 2008. The medal recognises his outstanding contribution to the development of sea floor controlled source electromagnetic surveying – a technique for mapping the variations in electrical resistivity beneath the sea floor, to depths of several kilometres. Application of this method, which was first used to locate fluids around mid-ocean ridges, has led to the creation of a major new sector in the hydrocarbon exploration industry. The work also led to the establishment, in 2002, of a highly successful spin-off company, Offshore Hydrocarbon Mapping (OHM), which is listed on the Alternative Investment Market of the London Stock Exchange. A marine geophysicist, Martin Sinha is a former co-chair of the Centre's Geology and Geophysics Research Group.

AVAILABLE TO OLD SENNOCKIANS

CLUBS

In common with all HMC Schools, OS can join three clubs in London, which also have wide-ranging reciprocity agreements. Under the J7 scheme, a fee of £185 will cover OS men up to the age of 25 at The East India Club in St James's Square, provided membership is taken up within 18 months of leaving school. OS women can join the University Women's Club in Audley Square. The Lansdowne Club, off Berkeley Square, offers membership to all OS.

Details of all three clubs can be obtained from Hope Pym at the Sennockian Club office:
telephone: 01732 467708
email: club@sevenoaksschool.org.



The Lansdowne Club

FOR SALE THROUGH THE SENNOCKIAN CLUB

- Stylish enamel cufflinks with a chain fitting, designed in school colours of red and silver and featuring the school crest. Each pair comes in a presentation box.
- Pure silk ties in school colours, 9 x 150 cm
- Best quality pashminas made from a mix of wool and silk in school colours, 164 x 62cm

All items £32.50 each.

If you would like to buy any of these items please send a cheque payable to 'Sevenoaks School Foundation' to The Sennockian Club, Sevenoaks School, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 1HU. For overseas orders please contact The Sennockian Club (club@sevenoaksschool.org) prior to order.





SARAH BUSHBY

Sarah joined the Classics department in September 2005. She is an excellent teacher whose enthusiasm for the study of the classical world always rubbed off on her students. She also has that rare ability to make grammar fun. Sarah was a much loved tutor in Sennocke and an active pilot officer in the RAF section of the CCF. She leaves Sevenoaks to become Head of Classics at Felsted School, Essex.

Helen Walker



PAUL FANNON AND VESNA KADELBURG

Paul and Vesna joined the school straight from Cambridge University five years ago and immediately displayed a huge enthusiasm for every aspect of school life.

Their departure from the department is a huge loss – they have coordinated the Higher Level course as an impressive team, and inspired a huge number of our most talented mathematicians from Years 7 to 13 with their enthusiasm for the subject. They have been adept and willing to help train students for mathematics competitions, have given numerous mock Oxbridge interviews and advice on university entrance, as well as assisting in the tricky business of Maths Extended Essays. In addition to these school commitments, Vesna has been a team leader of the British Mathematical Olympiad team and Paul has expertly and confidently started the ‘gifted and talented’ programme at the school.

The pair are equally well known for their dancing. If you have never seen them dance, you have missed a treat as they are extraordinarily talented. While at Sevenoaks they continued to dance successfully for the Cambridge University Dancesport team. I visited www.dancesportinfo.net – a wealth of information on all types of dancing which has some excellent photographs of the pair. It also gives them a current rating value of 1451, which sounds really high so must be good! It was always obvious when they were about to perform in a competition as they arrived in the school having painted themselves a peculiar shade of



orange – and I have been told that Paul is not beyond performing in class or in the boarding house prior to a big competition.

Paul is off to Perse School for Girls in Cambridge to help them set up the International Baccalaureate and teach TOK and Maths. Vesna is off to be Head of Department at Mander Portman Woodward independent Fifth and Sixth Form college, also in Cambridge. I had the pleasure of attending Paul and Vesna’s wedding this year. Vesna looked radiant in a dress designed by Paul. We wish them every success and happiness for their future together.

Paul La Rondie

STUART MACALPINE

Stuart was at Sevenoaks for four years and, such has been his impact, it is hard to recall a time when he wasn’t here. I remember interviewing him. He walked in – shy, diffident, apologetic, but then his razor-sharp mind took over. I soon forgot it was an interview, and sat there fascinated as this splendidly clever man just talked.

What makes Stuart special as a teacher and impressive as a colleague is his ability to synthesise information, to make connections – his ability democratically to embrace seeming opposites and reconcile them. He’s an English MA graduate, but he also started an OU degree in Maths (his father was a Maths teacher); he likes antique things as well as modern technology; he may have one eye on assessment detail, and can recite assessment objectives, but his other eye is always on the bigger picture: the rounded individual, the cultured citizen, the politics of education. This ability to synthesise things and process them quickly is what distinguishes the great from the good, and Stuart enjoys a touch of greatness in this respect.

Another thing that is important to Stuart is his sense of place and sacredness. His literary pilgrimage to Italy was more than just a trip. And he doesn’t just visit shrines – he makes them. Visitors to his room noticed the votive offerings on the desk and book shelf, the holy green sofa, the icon-like visualiser.

VALETE (CONTINUED)

Dedication and enthusiasm are words that spring to mind when you think of Stuart's teaching. In the last ISC Inspection, he was awarded a 1 for his teaching, a distinction few teachers enjoy. He has the highest standards – he really thinks about his teaching, which is as rigorous as it is creative. Always keen to improve himself through reading, he sets an excellent example to his pupils. He relishes pushing the gifted but also really cares about those who are not at the top.

Stuart has been an inspiration to his pupils, to the department – and I know, from his presentations on learning styles to Senior Management, an inspiration to the School in general. There's a cliché about English teachers that they are either scholarly, but administratively weak, or professionally competent and administratively slick but not particularly inspirational when talking about books. Stuart is living proof that you can be inspirational in class as well as efficient and dependable in administration. As a result, he was promoted three times in three years – to second in the English department, to Assistant Boarding House Master in the IC, and finally he gained a Teaching and Learning award – the first such to be awarded at Sevenoaks. His legacy is to have students who love English, and who will continue to read and enjoy literature once they leave school. But alongside his passion for knowledge is an equal conviction about values – and he instilled his pupils with the values of integrity, humility, compassion and cleverness. He helped transform the performance of the boys in the IC.

Stuart is a rare talent, a fine colleague and a valued friend. We wish him, Francesca and his two children every success in the future as he goes on to be Head of Department at Millfield School.

Chris Greenhalgh



SUE MANN

A wonderfully astute and brilliant linguist, Sue has been a stalwart of the Spanish and French Departments for nearly 14 years. She was also Assistant Housemistress in GIH for seven years. An exceptional woman, it would be an understatement to say that we admire Sue for her indomitable spirit in the face of adversity, for her quick intelligence and razor sharp wit, for her beauty and her elegance and most of all for her kindness and generosity of spirit.

Unwavering in her commitment to academic excellence in the classroom, Sue's pupils remember her with tremendous affection and respect, having benefited from academic rigour, delivered with an extraordinary lightness of touch. Sue has touched the lives of several thousand pupils who have passed through the classrooms at Sevenoaks. Many of them kept in touch regularly during her period of illness, keen to be reassured that she was recovering.

For seven years Sue was my right hand in the GIH and I could not have done the job without her. What I learned from Sue over those years is intangible: a feeling for managing young people; a sense of perspective on life; a sense of style. Sue emerged from her grave illness, and in the years that have followed, her moral and mental energy, combined with a total absence of bitterness have made her a figure of great admiration within our community and further afield. Marta Ochoa wrote this about Sue in Spanish as part of her farewell tribute:

'Whoever has had the pleasure of striking up a conversation, however short, with Sue, will know that through her delicacy of feeling and her innate gentleness one can catch a glimpse of her inner world – a woman in love with her job, with language and languages, with knowledge and with life.'

Despite living in a world overwhelmed by new technologies, Sue knew how to get the very best from her pupils using traditional methods, but even these take a back seat to the real learning in Sue's classroom which is pupil centred. As a free

VALETE (CONTINUED)

thinker, Sue dispensed with the textbook, there to lighten the busy teacher's load, and created her own resources with careful attention to the individual needs, abilities and difficulties encountered by her pupils.

As a colleague, Sue has shown the same level of care and affection; unconditional support is offered to soothe any worried brow, unconditional help in any hour of need, with exquisite humour and patience but nevertheless a firm hand when confronting even the slightest injustice towards another. She is also an unquenchable fountain of knowledge; a woman who is fascinated by culture, literature and language. Sue has been the jewel in our Department's crown.

Perhaps from necessity or personal experience, Sue has developed a sense of perspective on the things of fundamental importance in life and has learned to avoid the superficial. She is characterised by her love of good and simple things, a chat over a cup of coffee, a walk in the park, a book, and of course, her family. All these things make Sue someone trustworthy and caring, whom one wants to get close to and spend time with.

Sue moves on to a new and very fulfilling stage in her life – as a doting grandmother. She is relocating to her beautiful little cottage in Tunbridge Wells, from where she hopes to continue fostering her passions for reading, cinema, and travelling. We wish her every happiness for her retirement but hope we'll still be seeing a lot of her.

Ruth Greenhalgh



SIMON TAYLOR

Simon Taylor leaves the school after 11 highly successful years to take up the post of Director of the IB at Portsmouth Grammar School.

After leaving Oxford University where he read Latin and Greek, Simon trained as a solicitor and spent four years in a London law firm specialising in litigation and employment law – skills which fortunately he never had to use at Sevenoaks.

However, he was particularly well suited to school-mastering. During his time here he taught Latin, Greek, English and Theory of Knowledge and was also a highly caring and respected Sixth Form Tutor. Given his own distinguished sporting background, it is not surprising that he contributed so much to this area of school life. As a pupil he represented Whitgift School at rugby, hockey and cricket and he was captain of their First XV and played for Surrey and London schools. Whilst at Oxford he gained a blue playing scrum-half for the university in 1989. At school he coached rugby and athletics, although he made his real mark organising cross-country; he led a small band of runners in all weathers around Knole Park each Thursday after school and organised an annual training camp in the New Forest. His dedication paid off with the school teams invariably being Kent Champions and our girls team repeatedly triumphing in the annual Knole Run.

In 2003 Simon took over as Registrar in charge of school admissions, where his eye for detail and talent for administration were ideal skills for the job. After three years he was given a wider brief, becoming the new Director of Admissions and Communications, and his responsibilities now included marketing the school and dealing with an increasing number of school publications. He had prodigious energy, and juggled many duties: meeting prospective parents, liaising with feeder schools, administering entrance tests, conducting a review of our scholarship and bursaries policy, revamping the *Sennockian*, devising a new prospectus and playing a key role in producing a school DVD.

Simon's absence will be felt across many areas of school life, but we all wish him well for his new challenge of establishing the IB at his new school.

Mike Bolton

VALETE (CONTINUED)



MARK TURNBULL

Mark studied Geography at Liverpool University, where he met his wife-to-be, Ruth. He won a place on the graduate development programme for NatWest, who were obviously impressed by his middle name – Merchant. But it was to teaching and the love of his subject that Mark was drawn. He joined the School in 1989 and has amassed 19 years at Sevenoaks.

One of the first things you notice about Mark – after his height – is his patrician good looks, the almost Roman profile that you feel you’ve seen somewhere on a coin. And he has that lordly lope as he strides around the campus. In keeping with this aristocratic carriage, Mark also has a very strong and deep sense of tradition. As a boy he attended Marlborough College, and his father was Bishop of Durham. In short, Mark is a class act.

Mark loves to travel, of course. As a geographer, the globe is his classroom and he relishes the field trips to the Cevennes, Switzerland, Morocco and not least Swanage. He’s a terrific teacher and pioneered the use of the whiteboard and associated technology in his lessons. In IT generally, Mark is a bit of a whizz, and he exploits fully the opportunities for vivid illustration in his classes. His lessons are a visual feast.

He is also an excellent administrator, with fine management skills. We often hear about the distinction between leadership and management but Mark genuinely excels in both. For the last few years he’s been a superb Housemaster at School House, in charge of 52 boys, and more recently he has developed the role of Head of Boarding. Mark enjoys a natural sense of authority and an easy sense of command. To see him referee a rugby game or umpire a cricket match is to see someone in complete control. He has real presence and this sense of command runs through his teaching and house-mastering, providing an excellent role model for the boys in his charge.

It’s beyond my abilities to distil in a few hundred words all the things he’s achieved. He pioneered the School’s Romania project; he was instrumental in founding the Sixth Form Committee. He launched the project to help build sustainable homes in Tanzania; he led a team of seven colleagues to the New York marathon, where all successfully completed the race. He’s been MUN director, helped with CCF and Duke of Edinburgh, led and participated in dozens of field trips, helped out with exchanges, been a long-serving and fully committed rugby, football and cricket coach, going on two rugby tours. His students have secured outstanding results at all levels – and all this not to mention the 11 years of boarding which have been at the centre of Mark’s time here. Few have done more to raise the profile of boarding within the school and to ensure its smooth running. His warm-hearted, compassionate and companionable presence at the head of that part of the School is a key reason for its success.

Mark has always been keen to improve himself and develop as a teacher. He undertook an MA in Geography in Education, was an active Head of General Studies and coordinated the subsidiary subjects in the days of A-levels. In recent years, keen to stretch himself academically, he volunteered to teach TOK and relished the intellectual challenge.

Given his pastoral experience, his academic successes and his strong co-curricular involvement, it is little surprise that he has now been appointed main deputy at Eastbourne College. We wish Mark, Ruth and the children every success in the future.

Chris Greenhalgh

VALETE (CONTINUED)



PETER YOUNG

Peter Young retired in July after teaching at Sevenoaks for 36 years. Although by nature a modest man, in his final year Peter was forced into the limelight to receive a host of tributes in recognition of everything he had done for the school over such a long period. Former students who have gone on to professional music careers returned to stage a special concert for him in the Summer Festival; Peter presented his own Desert Island Discs evening, highlighting his superb knowledge and breadth of music interests; current students arranged a concert for him and his colleagues organised a dinner in his honour. Those attending the major concert of the year at St John's, Smith Square in June saw Peter conduct the school orchestra and his own Sennocke Consort, and few will forget the rapturous reception he received.

Peter joined the school in 1972. He had been a Music scholar at Wellington College and went on to read Music at Edinburgh University. He arrived here when, by comparison with today, very little music making was taking place. It is true that the Aisher Hall had been in operation for a few years, but there was no proper orchestra, no chamber music and very few concerts. Today Music is at the very heart of the School and the quality of musicianship is exceptional. Although Peter is too modest to take any credit for this himself, the five Directors of Music he has worked with – Brian Townend, Peter Woodward, Tim Kermodé, Andrew Forbes and Chris Dyer – would say otherwise and all acknowledge the central role that Peter has played both on the Aisher Hall stage and behind the scenes.

Whether he is singing, playing the organ, conducting, rehearsing, composing or accompanying, it is Peter's sheer versatility which is so impressive. He has the real knack of communicating his own passion for music and draws the very best out of others, whether they are beginners or seasoned performers. As well as his work in the school, Peter has also been actively involved with music locally; he has held the post of organist at St Nicholas' Church since he joined the school and has established a musical link with the Pipemakers' Livery Company, although he is perhaps most proud of developing our links with the Goethe-Gymnasium in Ibbenbüren.

Peter also contributed in many ways to the wider school community. For a number of years he was a popular Assistant Housemaster at Park Grange when it was a boys' house, before taking over a Junior tutor group, a position he occupied for a record-breaking 24 years. Somehow he has also found time to organise VSU, serve on the Common Room Committee and support his colleagues as a much respected Senior Master.

Peter spent his entire professional career at Sevenoaks. Generations of students have benefited from his skill and enthusiasm as a teacher and the Common Room loses a highly respected and wise colleague. The School is grateful for the unique contribution he has made to the Music department and we wish him and Linda a long and happy retirement.

Mike Bolton

VALETE (CONTINUED)

We also say goodbye to the following members of the Academic staff:

Andrew Bird
David Brabban
Alice Brooking
Ralph Cowan
Robert Cromarty
Brian Dallaway
Gail Featherstone
Mariko Gower
Alan Hopf
Rachel Johnson
Fernando Lazaro
Catherine Long
Gary Percival
Sean Reid
David Rogers

And the following peripatetic music teachers, sports coaches and members of the Catering, Support and Development staff:

Nick Barker
Catherine Barrett
George Chapman
Sue Coomber
Barry Corbishley
Ivan Danihel
Sarah De Bats
Sheila Draper
Charlotte Evans
Lorna Evans
Susan Hooper
Ros Maynard
Carl Mendes
Janet Menzies
Sam Nicholson
Joana Simmons
Rebecca Solly
Steve Stares
Mark Taylor
Ruth Turnbull



2008-9 DATES FOR DIARY: SCHOOL AND SENNOCKIAN CLUB

Friday 5 December	14.30	Junior Knole Run
Wednesday 10, Thursday 11 and Saturday 13 December	19.30	Lower School Production – <i>The Life and Times of Timothy Simon</i>
Monday 15 December	19.00	Carol Service, St Nicholas' Church
Wednesday 17 December	19.30	End of Michaelmas term
Monday 12 January	08.30	Beginning of Lent term
Saturday 17 January	14.30	36th Knole Run and 14th Girls Knole Run
Tuesday 3 to Thursday 5 and Saturday 7 February	19.30	Upper School production – <i>The School for Scandal</i>
Thursday 26 March	19.30	End of Lent term
Wednesday 15 April	08.30	Beginning of Summer term
Friday 24 April	19.30	Alan Adler concert, St John's, Smith Square
Saturday 25 April	18.00	10th Reunion for the Class of 1999
Saturday 2 May	14.30	OS Five-a-side Football
Friday 15 May		OS Golf Society spring meeting at Littlestone
Friday 15 May	19.00	20th Reunion for the Class of 1989
Saturday 23 May		Leavers' Day
Friday 12 June	18.30	Sennockian Club – Central London Reunion at the Cooperage
June (tbc)		Junior & Middle School Sports Day
June (tbc)		Middle School Production – <i>Carrie's War</i>
Sunday 21 June		OS Cricket v the School at Solefields
Saturday 27 June		Founder's Day (all OS are invited to bring a picnic and have a drink in Manor House)
Saturday 27 June	19.30	End of Summer term
Thursday 3 September	08.30	Beginning of Michaelmas term
Sunday 6 September	14.00	OS Rugby on Duke's Meadow
Friday 18 September	19.00	25th Reunion for the Class of 1984
Monday 21 September		OS Golf Society autumn meeting at Rye
Wednesday 14 October	12.00	50th Reunion lunch for the Classes of 1959 and 1960

The Festival of Sport has been replaced by a series of Sunday matches. There will also be a hockey and a football Sunday match. Dates to be confirmed. Be advised that reunion dates are tentative, but changes will be announced in advance of invitation. All dates are correct at the time of going to press, but may be subject to change.