

ACKWORTH TODAY

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Pages

A FRESH NEW LOOK

IT'S ALL CHANGE AT ACKWORTH! NEVER
ONE TO REST ON OUR LAURELS, WE'RE
MIXING IT UP AND KEEPING THINGS FRESH





HEAD'S WELCOME

*Head
Anton Maree*

In this edition Anton Maree discusses the notion of distracted walkers, the challenges schools are facing in the digital era, and how we can sensibly change and adapt to the times.





Y

ou see them everywhere - distracted walkers with their eyes glued to their smartphones; in the corridors at school, on the playground and on busy streets. A lot of people do it; I must admit that I do it too. I know that walking and texting is a risk, so is talking on the phone whilst on the move, listening to music, checking emails and taking selfies. Bollards and lamp posts tend not to get out of the way and vehicles can cause a lot of damage!

I read recently that Cranleigh School, Surrey, had become the first school in the UK to ban the use of smartphones for pupils in its first two years (Year 9 and 10 - National Curriculum). I have not heard how successful they have been. It is my experience that children usually have more than one smartphone and will always find a way to use them.

Smartphones cause visual and mental distraction, but there are other effects that Cranleigh is trying to counter. Constant access to social media sites can be damaging to children's self esteem and mental health and staring at a screen instead of interacting with friends at break time or lunchtime is unhealthy. Social interaction is vital if children are to learn qualities that employers and society value. Adolescence is a time for developing social skills, for learning through relationships...there is already enough pressure upon teenage brains.

Cranleigh is not alone in taking direct action and there are schools around the world introducing measures that they believe will work. In South Africa, Selborne College has a complete ban on smartphones. They have no clemency: a smartphone is confiscated for the remainder of the term if found at school and parents apparently support this initiative.

Different solutions to end the distraction have been applied elsewhere: Honolulu, Hawaii, has become the first city to pass a law that allows the police to fine pedestrians up to \$35 for viewing electronic devices while crossing streets in the city. Pedestrians have to share the responsibility for their safety with motorists. A survey in the United States has found that people who text and walk are nearly four times as likely to engage in at least one dangerous action, like jaywalking or not looking both ways, and take 18% more time to cross a street than undistracted pedestrians. I can't tell you how many times I have nearly bumped into someone distractedly viewing their smartphone.

It might amuse you to know that Bodegraven, a small town in the Netherlands, tried a different approach. They have embedded LED-illuminated strips in the ground at pedestrian crossings, right in the line of sight of people staring at their phones. When the traffic lights turn red or green, so do the lights at ground level, alerting pedestrians when it is safe to cross. It is a relatively inexpensive and effective solution. No doubt the person who invented this device was 'tech savvy', and probably has a smartphone too!

Schools are finding it far more difficult to find a solution. They are faced with mounting mental health issues amongst children and many have to employ mental health practitioners. Social media can make children very unhappy! But, if we ban smartphones, we lose the chance to teach children how to use transportable technology safely and effectively. We drive the matter underground. At Ackworth we embrace digital technology in the classroom and we talk about safe usage of social media during PSHE lessons and in Meetings. Smartphones are excellent tools that can be used to enhance learning.

In a world that is constantly evolving, the relationship between the school and home is critical. We are trying to convince our pupils to use their smartphones sparingly and never between lessons. Help us by applying sensible rules at home and also supporting the stance that we have chosen to take.



HEAD GIRL VICTORIA PATEL

Q1. How did you become Head Girl?

I can't be 100% sure as ultimately SMT made the final decision, but I would like to think that it was because I actively took part in the school community- whether that was by going to clubs or just by talking to the people around me.

Q2. What are your main responsibilities in the role of Head Girl?

A lot of it is organising people to help with certain events at certain times but I think that my main responsibilities are universal to the whole School Officer team. We all act as the bridge between students and staff and if we hear about problems within the school then we can discuss them with Mr Maree or Mr Boucher and Miss Collingwood.

Q3. How often do you meet with tutors and SMT?

At least twice a week - we have meetings on Monday mornings with the Head of Sixth Form and on Friday mornings with the Head. If we need to meet with them more than that, we just ask and arrange another meeting.

Q4. What do you enjoy most about being Head Girl?

That people trust me enough to be able to discuss their problems with me.

Q5. What is an unexpected perk of being a School Officer?

Boarding. I really enjoy it- it's really convenient to just roll of bed in the morning and already be at school. Also, you get to become close friends with some really fun and interesting people from different parts of the world.

Q6. What are you hoping to do once you've left Ackworth School?

I'm hoping to study medicine at university and go on to train and practise as a doctor. I think that would keep me busy for a little while.



HEAD BOY SAM RABY

Q1. How did you become Head Boy?

I'm not sure exactly how I became Head boy but from what I've been told and heard from others the decision is made from a variety of sources. SMT have a meeting to discuss it then there is another meeting where teachers can have their input. Also people in my year could vote (not on who should be Head Boy) but who the officers should be and could put names forward. The old 6th form were asked as well apparently who they thought would be best.

Q2. What are your main responsibilities as the role of Head Boy?

My key responsibilities are organising guides for the school for families and prospective students alongside Vicky.

Q3. How often do you meet with tutors and SMT?

We have 2 officer meetings a week, one with Mr Maree and one with Mr Boucher and Miss Collingwood, where we openly talk about any issues or possible new ideas to implement into school life.

Q4. What do you enjoy most about being Head Boy?

I really enjoy taking on the required responsibilities and although I haven't made a massive impact yet, I am lucky enough to be in a position where the officers can bring about change or put forward ideas directly to the heads of school.

Q5. What do you dislike most about being Head Boy?

I have no problems.

Q6. What are you hoping to do once you've left Ackworth School?

I hope to go off to university and study mathematics - a subject I have been passionate about since I can remember. I have no idea which job I'd like that to take me to but I love it, and if you're not doing what you enjoy, you're not doing what's best for you.

NEW STAFF



Daniel Marks

Starting at Ackworth School was the first time I had ever moved schools, so naturally I was very unsure as to what to expect. Now I am a term in, I realise I had absolutely nothing to worry about!



Emma Bell

The atmosphere at Ackworth School is quite different to any school I've previously worked at, certainly there is a greater sense of community. From the very first day I have been made to feel very welcome by both staff and students.



Michael Dancer

I have really enjoyed my first term at Ackworth, working with great staff and friendly students. The school is a wonderful environment to teach in and to help support our students towards achieving great things in PE and Games.



William Elliott

Ever since my first day at Ackworth School I have felt very welcomed by students and staff alike. I have enjoyed teaching as part of the mathematics department - a great team to work with.



Heather Gordon

I have really enjoyed my first term at Ackworth School. I have found the staff and students to be very welcoming and have settled in to my own routine. I have witnessed first hand the dedication that staff have to their students and subjects here.



Polly Benn

My start at Ackworth has been wonderful. I have been welcomed so warmly by all of the staff and students, especially those in Coram House. It is great to be a part of such a lovely, positive and inclusive school environment.



Helene Clugston

I can hardly believe a whole term as gone by! Everyone has been so helpful and welcoming that it has been very easy to fit in. Our pupils are delightful and I am very much enjoying my new role! I am looking forward to getting to know all of the Ackworth community.



Abbey Mason

I have settled in wonderfully at Ackworth School. From the moment I started I instantly felt welcomed by such a great team of people. I feel like I've been here for much longer than two weeks (in a good way!)



ISOBEL HARRISON

YEAR 6

Meet Isobel, a new member of Year Six. We caught up with her to get her thoughts on life at Ackworth.



We start this quarter's Ackworth Today with an interview with Isabelle Harrison, one of the new pupils at Coram House.

Do you feel that you have settled in at Coram House? What is it that you like the most about being a part of the school?

It's really good, I've made lots of friends since I started here a couple of months ago. I have two best friends called Claudia and Grace.

What are your favourite subjects at school?

English and Drama are my favourite subjects.

Do you have any relatives that have been to Ackworth School in the past?

My older brother and sister came here. My brother is now a lead singer in a rock band and my sister is currently working in a shop.

What would you like to become when you're older?

I really want to become an actress or a wedding dress designer when I grow up.

Have you joined any after school clubs or societies since you started?

I'm joining the PQA Drama Academy and I also do netball club on a Wednesday.

Do you like the food that you can get at lunchtime at Ackworth School?

Yes, the food here is much better than my other school!

Where did you go to before you started here?

I went to Kirk Smeaton Church of England Primary.

If you could go anywhere in the world, where would you go and why?

I would want to go to either Rome or Africa. I'd like to go to Africa so that I can help children that are less fortunate than us, and I'd like to go to Rome to see the famous Trevi fountain.

If you could be any animal in the world, what would you be and why?

I would be a wild horse so that I can run around and be free.

SPORTS SUCCESSSES

The inexorable march of our budding sportsmen and sportswomen continues with more sporting excellence.

CRICKET *Will Cross - Y6*

This summer I was so proud and happy to be selected for the Yorkshire Cricket u10A team. Our first game was in Derbyshire, where I was presented with my county cap, and I was lucky enough to score an unbeaten 51 runs with the bat to help the team to our first win.

Further wins followed against Nottinghamshire, Warwickshire and Staffordshire but my highlight has to be the 2 wins against our biggest rivals Lancashire. I opened the bowling in both games (even though I bowl leg spin!) and in the first game took 2 wickets for 3 runs and in the second gained my best figures for the season of 4 wickets for 2 runs. Both games were watched by Andrew "Freddie" Flintoff whose son was playing for Lancs!

We finished the season unbeaten from our 8 games, playing with a great set of lads who are so good at cricket and it has been a really enjoyable experience. I have also made some great friends from all over Yorkshire.

We had the Yorkshire presentation dinner in November where I was delighted to receive the Bowler of the Year award from Yorkshire 1st XI cricketer Jack Leaning.

CORAM FOOTBALL

Coram's year 5 & 6 football team has made an excellent unbeaten start to the football season with a convincing 16-3 win over South Kirkby Academy, two hard fought victories over Bootham (9-8 and 4-2) and a thrilling 3-3 draw with Grove Lea Primary.



Will Cross with Jack Leaning

SPECIAL OLYMPIC GOLD MEDALLIST VISITS DEPUTY- MAYOR! *Ross Bolland*



On the 21st of November I and the rest of my club were rewarded for getting gold in Green Bowls in the Special Olympics. We visited the Mayor in Wakefield Town Hall. My team partner John and I brought back one silver each that we won in triples and gold in doubles! I am very proud to be part of my club community and to have taken part in the Special Olympics.

GIRLS' HOCKEY

Jane Donnelly – Head of Girls' PE

Hockey is going from strength to strength and we are having many students participating each week at the two hockey clubs. We have played many fixtures so far this term, including a 0-0 draw with Rishworth School, two wins and a loss at Read School with both under 13 and 14 winning convincingly. The girls have been introduced to the 11 a side game and are starting to get to grips with the bigger pitch size. We have played Silcoates twice and each time we have improved massively. We have also played Silcoates at 7 a side with the under 13 A and B teams. We won both games, 2-0 and 4-1. We recently competed in the Wakefield District under 14 hockey tournament where we came third in our group, narrowly missing out on the semi final.

There have been two individual successes this season so far: Charlotte Glasby and Imogen Strawson have been selected for their age groups for South Yorkshire. Well done, girls, on such a fantastic achievement!



The hockey team meet Sam Quek

SQUASH

SAM

I played the British Closed at the weekend and was very happy with how I played throughout the 4 days. I was very consistent and didn't drop a game which was my aim from the start. I was happy to win the title again. I felt like the tournament went pretty comfortably, however I still had to play my best for the win.

LAYLA

It was my first year in the under 15 age category of the British Championships which unfortunately meant I had a tough first round. Thereafter I won my next 4 matches. I'm extremely proud of winning the plate and my performance throughout the whole tournament. I hope to take this form through to my next major events like the British Junior Open being held in Birmingham in January.

ASIA

Winning the British Junior Championships U13 feels amazing. I won 3-1 in the final against Amelia Haworth. Just having that title behind you feels amazing. It was a great final, played on the glass court at Manchester National Centre. In Winning in the semi-final against Alex Kelleher from Wales (3-0) I didn't drop a game until reaching the final. I was training hard to get where I came and I am looking forward now to hopefully winning the British Junior Open in the middle of January.

BOYS' SPORT *Aden Ball - Year 5 Teacher*

There are a number of standout team performances I would like to mention. Firstly the U13s hockey players who narrowly beat Hall Cross 2-1 in a very competitive and hard fought game. Secondly the U15s footballers who beat Batley 4-2. Thirdly the U14s hockey team who beat Bolton School 4-3 in what was a tremendously exciting end to a thriller of a game. Fourthly the U18s footballers who beat Hull 2-1 in the cup. And finally, the U12s hockey team who beat Hall Cross with a number of players making the senior school sport debuts.

NORTHERN SCHOOLS' **QUAKER PILGRIMAGE**

Some of our intrepid sixth formers took part in the Northern Schools' Quaker Pilgrimage as part of an exercise to explore the roots of Quakerism.

*Contributors
Ksenija, Anna,
Rebecca*

Some of Ackworth's sixth form students joined with similar aged students from The Mount and Bootham to see 1652 country as part of the Northern Schools' Quaker Pilgrimage. They climbed Pendle Hill and visited the new Clitheroe Meeting House, the Quaker Tapestry in Kendal and Swarthmore Hall. There was time for reflection as well as discussion as they followed the journey George Fox made, ending with Meeting for Worship on Sunday at Brigflatts.

'The pilgrimage was certainly a very unique experience. We decided to take on the opportunity even though we didn't know what exactly to expect, and we were surprised by how interesting a pilgrimage can be. It is said to be a journey of discovery, and we can say for sure that we discovered a lot about the story of Quakerism, which is essentially the background story of our school. This made us see the point of all the traditions and practices related to the religion and feel as though they

have a purpose of cherishing such an intriguing and motivating movement that Quakerism is.

Furthermore, it was an opportunity to integrate with students from other Quaker schools, share experiences and views on the Quaker ethos, which made the whole experience richer and more enjoyable.'



INTER-HOUSE INTERMEDIATE AND SENIOR BAKE OFF

Sam Raby and Ben Cawood

It was an amazing experience to take part in the Great Ackworth Bake Off. The challenge was to make a stable tower of cookies, 30cm tall. There was a long day of hard work and teetering biscuits ahead, but Miss Hodge was always there to help hold them up.

We were inspired by an idea which we then took to the next level to get the McDowell's approval, with our final creation resembling a snowy clock tower. We hope in the future Woolman will be able to retain the Inter-house Bake Off title.



INTERNATIONAL CENTRE STUDENTS VISIT LEEDS UNIVERSITY

Gary Guo and Mike Hu

The trip to Leeds University was quite impressive and useful. It is a good place and the trip helped me to improve my English and to find out what a university is like in the UK. It is very big and there are so many old, beautiful buildings, but inside the buildings is a modern style. The most useful thing was the students explaining the best way to go from A Level to University.

I would now like to study harder as I want to go to university. They have many wonderful places for students such as a library, a gym and a swimming pool.

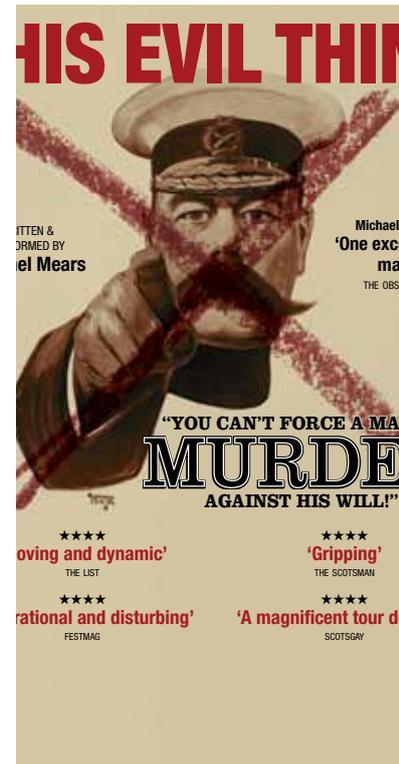
All the people were lovely and friendly I think I would be very happy if I could get in there.



THE PEACE LECTURE

This year's Peace Lecture was held in the Fothergill Theatre on Thursday 5th October at 7.00pm, in the form of a play 'This Evil Thing'. The play premiered last year at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival and tells the compelling and inspiring story of the men who in 1916 said 'no' to war. It was written by the playwright and actor Michael Mears, and he performed the play himself.

Michael takes the part of Bert Brocklesby, a World War I conscientious objector from South Yorkshire, who sent both his daughters to Ackworth School. Bert's granddaughter Jill Gibbon attended on the evening and spoke about the play after the performance.



SALLY SLATER DOES **BUCKINGHAM PALACE**

We hear about what happened after Head of Coram House, Sally Slater got a mystery invitation from the monarchy.

Imagine my surprise when, in the middle of the Summer Holidays an envelope arrived for me, with the postmark “Buckingham Palace”? The invitation read that I was invited, by the Duke of York, to attend an Education Forum in October. Apart from a security request the rest was a bit of a mystery.

I arrived at the Palace for my 3pm appointment feeling quite nervous. I showed my ID at the front gates and walked across the gravel wondering if the tourists peering through the railings were wondering who I was. It was certainly a surreal moment.

Once inside we were all shown to the Throne Room where we listened to speakers from all walks of life, talking about the merits of Outdoor Learning and their own personal experiences. Perhaps most moving was a talk by an 18 year old refugee who had been living in the UK for the last four years and described how the British Education system had helped her development both academically and socially.

The interior of the Palace was sensational and the whole experience was one that I will never forget. As I left the palace I looked back and really did feel extremely lucky.

Head of Coram House
Sally Slater





INTERNATIONAL CENTRE VISITS **LONDON**

Our International Centre Students took a trip south to our capital city. We find out what they got up to whilst they were there.

Let's Go! We got up at 6 a.m. We took the coach to the train station and went to Kings Cross station by train. Some people slept, and some people talked in the train. The first place we went to was St. James' Park. Many people had a picnic there. There were many cute squirrels and different kinds of birds. But I hate BIRDS! The second place we went to was The Royal Mews. There were many gorgeous carriages there. I want to be a QUEEN, too! And then, we went to Buckingham Place. Although the flags were up, unfortunately I couldn't see the Queen. But I could see the Changing of the Guards.

It was amazing! Finally, I went to a Korean restaurant with my friends and ate dinner and then returned to our hostel. We chatted until 12 o'clock!! It was a very interesting first day.

Morning!! Though I was tired, I got up and went down to eat breakfast. After breakfast, we went to Tower Bridge. We walked on the bridge. There were lots of people, but it was fun. Next, we went on the River Cruise. We saw Big Ben and many wonderful buildings. And then we went to the London Eye. I've always seen it in pictures, but it's really gorgeous! Also, it was the day when I saw the greatest roof

in my life. We had lunch here. Then we went to Parliament Square, The Science Museum, M&M shop and Chinatown where we had dinner. I felt a little more tired than yesterday, but it was an exciting day.

Finally, the last day! In the morning, we packed all our bags and finished breakfast. We went to Oxford Street. But it was too expensive so I just walked around and stayed in MacDonald's. Then we returned to school. It was a fantastic London trip for me

PROJECTS ABROAD

GHANA



In July I travelled with 11 Sixth Form students to the Greater Accra region of Ghana to work at the Rising Star orphanage in Dodowa. The main purpose of our visit was to build a new toilet block for the orphanage to encourage improved hygiene practices and allow a cleaner, safer environment for the children. We quickly learnt how to mix mortar, make blocks and build, tasks which most of us had not attempted before, and which were very challenging in the humid weather. Nevertheless, due to the hard work of the students, we completed our build, resulting in 4 adult size and 2 child size toilets. Alongside this manual work we got involved with the children at the orphanage, especially those who were not in school for various reasons, and spent time with them teaching English and maths as well as playing games (and learning Ghanaian ones!)

Ros Noble - Trip Leader

Going to Ghana with Projects Abroad has to be one of the most rewarding things I've done and although building the toilet block was a lot more physically demanding than I'd expected it was fulfilling to see it finished in the end. My favourite part of the trip was learning and playing the local games with the children at the orphanage. At the weekend, we went on a canopy walk through a rainforest and we got to see the amazing views there from a whole new perspective - it really was beautiful. We also went to visit Cape Coast Castle to learn a little about the history of empire and slavery in this region. I would recommend volunteering to anyone who asks about it.

Vicky Patel

We stayed at a local home and ate local dishes for our meals which were very different to our own, and often very spicy. I really enjoyed our drumming and dancing



lesson with a local group; I have a passion for dancing so it was fun to see how different cultures dance. I also had my birthday in the first week while we were there and everybody made it really special for me. It is a memory I will treasure forever.

Brooke Elsworth

The first thing I noticed on arrival in Ghana was the happiness and friendliness of the people and how infectious it was. One of my favourite parts of the trip was on the second day when we took a football to the orphanage and we managed to start a massive football match where nearly everyone got involved. It was amazing to see such a simple sport that I love bringing us closer to the kids and I knew it would be a moment I'll never forget.

Sam Raby

The trip to Ghana was one of the most rewarding things I've ever been involved with. Not only did I grow as a person and become more thoughtful, grateful and culturally aware, I helped several people have a better quality of life and a better foundation to reach their full potential. My favourite part of the trip was spending time with the people at the orphanage and getting to know them.

Ellie Williamson

The trip helped me develop team-work skills as we had to work really hard together. The sense of achievement after we finished the project and delivered the hygiene presentation was well worth the effort and the memories from the trip will stay with me forever.

William Day



CHOIR TOUR TO TUSCANY

Contributor
Grace Dibb

A

fter a long, hard school year it was finally the summer holiday. What better way to kick it off than jetting away to Tuscany with the choir for a week!

After breathing in Tuscan air for the first time, we arrived in Pisa. We all took some 'original' photos holding up the Tower!

After a good sleep in the hotel, we set off to Florence (or Firenze). We saw Ponte Vecchio, the Duomo and the Statue of David. For lunch we stopped at the amazing Mercato Centrale, which had all sorts of amazing food on offer! Obviously there was chance for a bit of shopping.

That night was our first concert in the Basilica Santa Assunta in Montecatini Terme. We sang amazingly, and ended the night with an *a capella* performance for the remaining audience!

The next day we made some amazing pizzas, and had a nice trip to the beach – thanks Mr. Lenihan for the lilos! In the evening, we took a funicular to Montecatini Alto. It was beautiful.

Our final full day took us to Sienna. We sat in the square and had some (well, lots of) AMAZING gelato! Then we drove to San Gimignano, a gorgeous mountain town. My friends and I shared a gigantic slice of pizza.

That night was my favourite night so far. We sang in a music festival called the Mercantia Festival 2017. We had quite a big crowd gather round to watch us perform – including people hanging out of their windows to see our choir! There were lots of other acts to see, from a brass band to people fire breathing...

Altogether it was amazing, and myself and the choir had the best time ever.

CORAM MAYFLY PROJECT

Katie Staton - Year 6 Teacher

Following on from staff training in May with Dr. Paul Gaskill and Alec Boyd (from the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust), Ben Barker and I have developed an after school club with our Prep children based on the 'Mayfly Project'. The Environment Agency provided Ackworth School with three sampling nets, some sampling containers and waders for staff. We have also secured a bid with the PSA to extend our resources for the club over the coming weeks.

The Mayfly Project involves children accessing the River Went to collect Mayfly larvae, then, back in the classroom, they study and observe the life cycle of the Mayfly before they are released back into the wild. The Mayfly are kept in specially designed water containers with a pump that are constructed by the children. The children are also responsible for keeping the water cold by changing ice packs daily.

The project aims to educate children, not only on the ecology of the river, identification of plant and animal life, but also on the effects of chemicals used by local farmers. If there is a low Mayfly population there is a likelihood of a highly polluted river system.

The results of the species found in our river samples are sent to Dr Gaskill for collation at the Environmental Agency. Dr Gaskill visited the club on Monday 30th October to check our progress.

Ben and I also intend to use the club as an outreach project (for other local schools along the River Went); show them how to set up the water containers and how to survey the

BUSINESS LUNCH

Drew Wallace Ross - U6 Business

Business Lunch takes place in school on the last Friday of each month. The club is somewhere for students to discuss current business and economics topics with peers. We discuss what's happening in the business world right now! Whether it's discussing what we've seen in the news, discussing video clips or undertaking the latest tutor2u quiz challenge, we discuss a whole range of business



topics. In the club we talk about what is happening now and how it affects us. Even students that don't study business come along, as even if you don't take Business as a subject it's still important to be aware of the business world and how it affects everyone.

A NEW PROJECT FOR NURSERY

Following a recent Channel 4 documentary 'Old People's home for 4yr olds' the nursery has begun to develop links with Stella House Retirement Home in Pontefract.

Studies show that time spent with the elderly greatly benefits both young children and old people alike. Our first visit on November 8th went very well indeed. The children had fun making chocolate cornflake buns and sharing stories with the residents.

We plan to make regular visits in the future and encourage our children to communicate with their new friends via letters and cards.



The Mayfly Project

SENIOR TEAM MATHS CHALLENGE

Sam Raby

On 23rd November a team consisting of Kathy Su, Zoe Ma, Jamie Dobbie and Sam Raby travelled to Outwood Academy in Doncaster to take part in an afternoon filled with mathematical problems, competing against other schools – our regional heat of the Senior Team Maths Challenge. We were very excited as for the past few weeks we had been training together for this moment and it was finally here. The competition consisted of three rounds, each one testing our mathematical ability in new and different ways. Overall we finished second (narrowly missing out on a trip to London for the final). It was an amazing experience I will never forget.

SENIOR MATHS CHALLENGE

Susan Swales - Maths Teacher

Forty 5th and 6th form students braved the Senior Maths Challenge on 7th November, and over half of them were awarded certificates - 7 each of bronze, silver and gold. The two top scorers, Kathy Su and Jamie Dobbie (both only in 5th form) qualified for the first round of the British Mathematics Olympiad, facing a 3.5 hour paper on 1st December! Five other high achievers qualified for the Kangaroo challenge on the same day.



Nursery children involved in the project



Kathy Su, Zoe Ma, Sam Raby and Jamie Dobbie

CHARITY WEEK

Vicky Patel

Levi Star and Lumos were the two worthy charities that we chose to dedicate this year's charity week to. The Sixth Form had packed the week with as many activities as we could

- amongst the most memorable of these were the bake sale, the stocks and, of course, Sixth Form and Staff Entertainment. The entire week took an immense amount of hard work, collaboration and organisation, with not only our peers but, with the teachers and catering staff as well. Thankfully, the week turned out a success and we managed to raise over £2,800 for charity.

HEPWORTH GALLERY

Louisa Young & Rebecca Puels

"It's the Museum everyone would dream of having on their doorstep" - Stephen Deuchar, Art Fund Director.

Last term all of the Sixth Form art students visited the Hepworth Art Gallery in Wakefield as part of their A-Level course. Together with one of the artists at the Gallery we began looking at some amazing artist sketchbooks to gain inspiration and to develop our own ideas. Much of this work expressed the artists' own thoughts, feelings and ideas. We also explored the artwork created by Henry Moore, Barbara Hepworth and Howard Hodgkin. We sketched, discussed and even sculpted out of paper responses to the work around us.

Visiting the gallery was a great experience and enabled us to learn about and understand a lot more about the role of an artist.



COMMUNITY SUPPORT

On Sunday 22nd October 2017 the Ackworth Community Ramble took place to raise money for Children in Need. The ramble was organised by John Cousins and was attended by more than 30 members of the local community. The five mile ramble started and ended at Ackworth School, with well-earned complimentary refreshments on return. The ramble was a wonderful opportunity to get to know others in the village and raised over £410 for Children in Need – well done to John and all those who attended and donated.

FORMULA 1 KARTING

Zac Meakin

I first started my racing career in 2015 - it was in a Honda cadet. I won the novice of the year award. My main aim for 2016-2017 was to gain experience racing at national level but I always knew in the long term I wanted to race in the European championship. In 2018 I will be racing a much larger and more powerful kart. We are doing a lot of testing with my mechanic Josh Parker and driver

coach and my team manager Ian Hawkins. We are all ready for my first race in Valencia in February. I am also testing at Silverstone race track at Izone where all of the best racing drivers train. We train in the gym, on a neuro tracker then in a simulator. This is for my vision strength and reactions.



Zac Meakin - speed demon



WINNING GEOGRAPHY POEM

Lucy Roche

On Friday the sixth we went on a trip

To look at the Yorkshire shore.

We went on a bus, the teachers and us,

About twenty, maybe some more.

We went to three beaches and talked to the teachers,

We visited Flamborough Head.

The wave-cut platform we saw, and lots, lots more

And a lighthouse we spotted ahead.

At Mappleton coastline it didn't smell too fine

With cliffs of unconsolidated rock.

It would not have been bliss if it had fallen on Miss

And would have been a great shock.

In Hornsea that day we saw boulder clay

And defences against the sea.

The groynes split the beach and eventually we reached

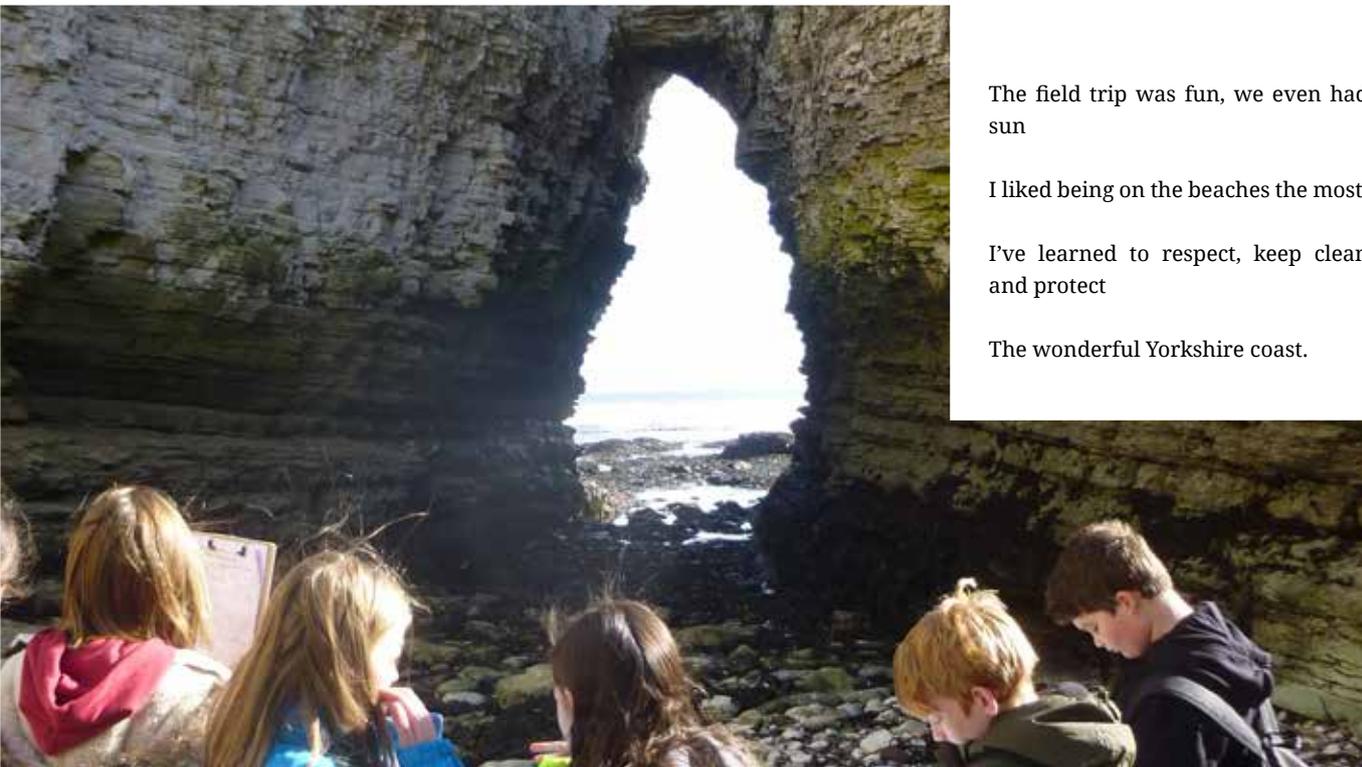
The bus to get home for tea.

The field trip was fun, we even had sun

I liked being on the beaches the most.

I've learned to respect, keep clean and protect

The wonderful Yorkshire coast.



OLD SCHOLAR NEWS

PREFACE

President - Belinda Walters

I have the pleasure of being the current President of the Ackworth Old Scholars Association. The year as President starts at the Easter Gathering, when on the Monday evening I was presented with the badge of office by last year's President, Nick Seed. The Easter Gathering is always a busy weekend, with a whole host of different activities to try, lots of people to talk to, and a large amount of food to navigate past! I was very pleased to be able to come to July's Open Day where, amongst other things, I was able to present the Old Scholar's Cup to Jenny Morton. So far this year, I have also been to events organised by each of the three Guilds – a visit to the New Forest Wildlife Park for the Wessex and South West Guild, for a lunch at an Old Scholar's house for the Manchester Guild, and a trip to Nunnington Hall and a weekend at Worfolk Cottage, near Whitby, with the East Coast Guild.

There is also each year a weekend at Glenthorne Guest House, in Grasmere where a group of Old Scholars from across the years get together. I hadn't been to Glenthorne since I worked there for a few months after leaving school (in 1982) so it was a lovely opportunity to go back and see all the changes, as well as enjoy the company and some walking.

The big change that has taken place recently has been the School taking over the main administration of the Ackworth Old Scholars. The connection that many feel with the School after their time as pupils is shown by the number of people who have connected with the AOSA over the years – whether in the old fashioned way of coming back to Ackworth, coming to an event, or by keeping in touch via social media or the AOSA annual report. Whichever way people keep in contact with the School, the growing numbers connected with the Ackworth Old Scholars can only be good both for the School and the Ackworth Old Scholars and I do think that this change is very welcome.





SAMPLER

School has just received the gift of a sampler made by Alice Blakey in 1824 from Mr Peter Von Korff and Ms Gresham of New York State.

Alice was a pupil here along with five of her siblings in the 1820s. They came from Wensleydale. How the sampler got to America is a bit of a mystery, but it has now 'come home' and will be added to our world famous collection.

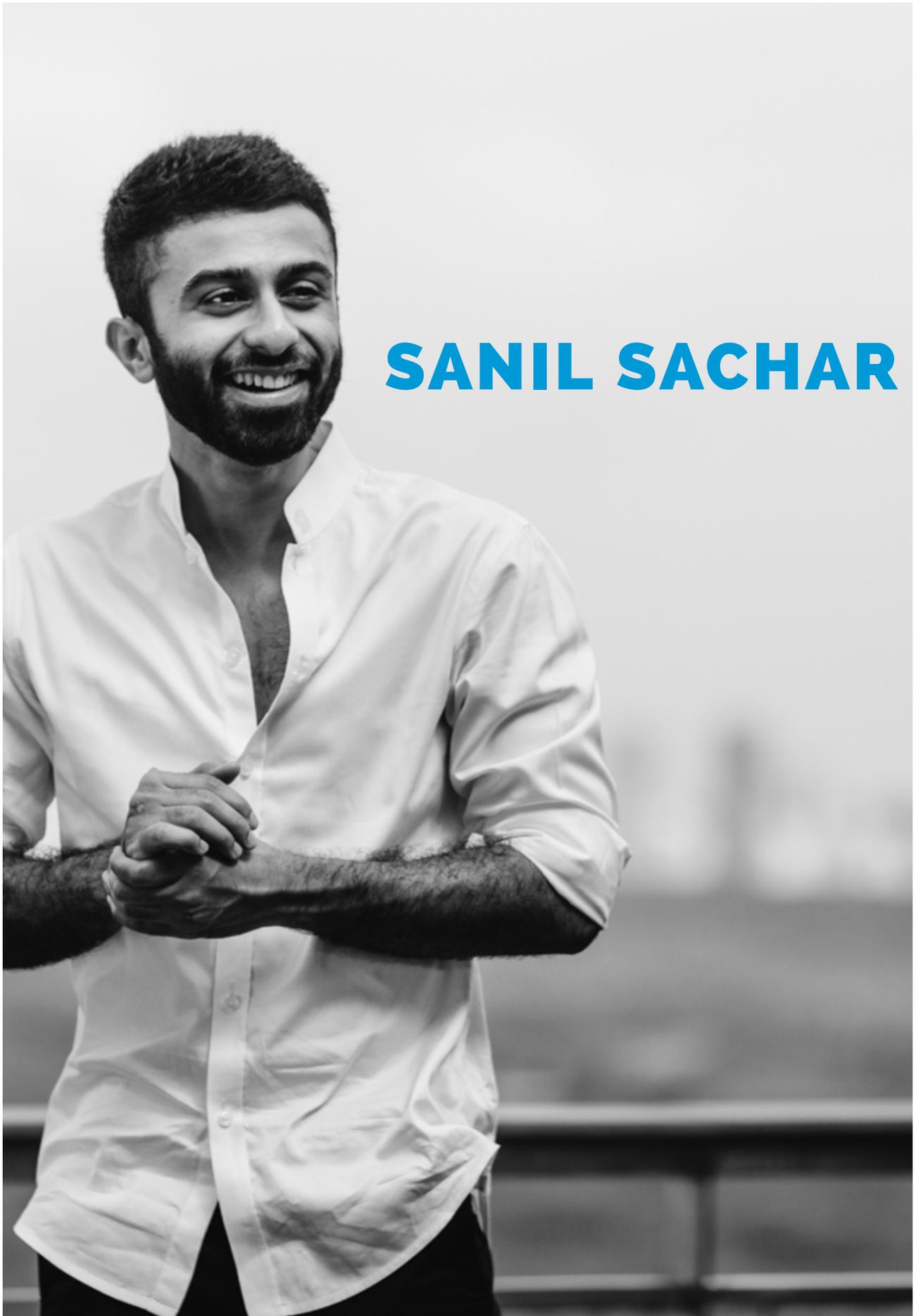
Alice was born on 15th May, 1810, the daughter of Joshua and Alice Blakey of Thornton Rust, which is a village in Wensleydale, Yorkshire. She arrived at Ackworth on 27th July, 1822 at the age of 12, and left on 24th July, 1824. She had five siblings who also came to Ackworth School - Mary, Ann, Margaret, Henry and Elizabeth. There were also several other Blakeys from the same area who I suppose could have been her cousins. So, the Blakeys were a big presence at Ackworth.

S A N D R A M A R T I N K O V Á



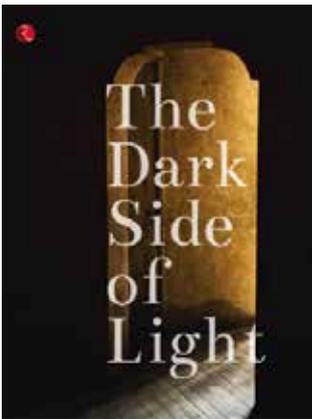
Pictured: Sandra lending support to us at a recent School Fair in Prague

After leaving Ackworth I enrolled at Charles University in Prague. I am pursuing a degree in mathematics at the faculty of mathematics and physics. If this is to be a success story, it might be worth mentioning. that after the first year this course had a pass rate of about 35%. Fortunately, I made it and I am currently in my third year. I'm also starting to work on my bachelors thesis. I have devoted my summers to studying Spanish and seeking internships to gain experience in my field. I have managed to secure one at Deloitte, where I started working this July. I am part of their advanced analytics team, which analyses data in order to predict future behaviour of customers and markets. I use my free time to better myself at ballroom dancing or climbing.



We sat down and had a chat with Old Scholar and famous Indian Author Sanil Sachar about life, his career and his books. Below is an excerpt of the conversation.

Editor
Kate Dawson



When were you at Ackworth School?

I joined Ackworth in 2009 and was there till 2011, for my A levels I was in Fothergill house and a boarder in room 11, BSH. After spending two years which flew by seeming like only a few days, I am still greedy to spend much more time in an institution that shaped my thinking on how to pursue my goals.

Were there any key experiences or teachers that you remember from school?

It's not as much of an experience as it is a way of life, and that's the unity amongst each and every person associated with our school. Of course there are loads of key experiences, several I wouldn't (and couldn't) reveal, just yet! But the faculty was always encouraging. From taking a knack towards poetry through Mr. Boucher and his contextual approach towards each student, to realizing my interest in business, through Mrs. Mitchell and Mrs. Tod's lessons. Each of them have been extremely pivotal for my development as an author and entrepreneur.

One key experience that stays with me is the last silent meeting we had as upper sixth students leaving Ackworth. Everyone was as transparent as they could be and this was the one and only silent meeting, where we actually got to break the silence!

Non sibi sed omnibus - truly is this the Ackworth way of leading and creating leaders.

What inspired you to write a book?

I remember writing my first piece of work in my study at Ackworth. Of course, I wasn't supposed to be doodling and writing words but this is the one time I am glad I didn't concentrate on the assignment I had to submit.

The first time I wrote, I didn't know it would lead to a book. Even now, when I write, I don't plan to make it a book because that immediately adds the business element to the art of literature. I constantly try and segregate the two and avoid them from intersecting.

I don't question why I write because there doesn't seem to be a suitable answer to this so I am just going to continue going – one word at a time.

What is the book about?

'Rebound' is a mystery fiction which is inspired by a true story. It is the tale of a schizophrenic who is born into the circus life and is trapped there for the entirety of his life, until the end of his teenage years. 'Rebound' narrates the life of the protagonist, Abhimanyu and his battles to live a life on his own means while battling the demons within and outside.

It's a story inspired by love, loss and longing, and is currently available in all stores around India, and on Amazon (on order and Kindle) for those around the world.



.....

JAMES FEARNLEY

ACCORDIANIST WITH THE POGUES

“We played Madison Square Garden once, Croke Park in Dublin, Wembley Stadium. We were I suppose a composite character in one of Alex Cox’s films, ‘Straight to Hell’, which came out in 1986.”

FROM PUPIL TO POGUE

Well, the last report I got at Ackworth, in 1973, contained the word 'cavalier'. I didn't do well in my A levels. 'Cavalier' might have had some academic heft to it, but the truth was that I was on a romantic mission in my last couple of years at Ackworth and devoted most of my time to it, and its chief mode of expression, which was music - piano-playing mostly (though I'd given up lessons years before) and guitar. The year following graduation from Ackworth, I had to spend back in my home town near Manchester to retake my A Levels. It wasn't an easy year, socially, romantically - and academically too, but I managed to scrape through German and French and English and a thing called 'General Studies' or something, to a level that satisfied UCCA to the point that I got an offer of a place at Liverpool Polytechnic and Ealing Polytechnic. My desire to escape, individuate, whatever, was best served by fleeing to Ealing, close enough to be counted as 'London'.

I started a course at Ealing Tech (the same college attended, though a few years before me, by Pete Townshend and Freddie Mercury) called 'Modern European Studies' which included Economics and History - not ever my strongest subjects. I chose it as some sop to my dad, Walter Fearnley, who was a captain of industry, I suppose, and also the President of the Old Scholar's Association in the year of the school's bicentenary. After six weeks I transferred to a Humanities degree course, graduating in 1977 with a B.A. (Hons) majoring in English. I didn't pursue music much while at Ealing Tech, though there was a Twentieth Century Music module on the curriculum which ticked a few boxes with me.

After the summer holidays of 1977, I went to work for the London Chamber of Commerce as a Research Assistant, but when my probationary period was coming to an end and I would be required to give a month's notice to quit rather than a week's, I gave my week's notice in October, and, fed up with England, as I told myself, I hitched to Marburg, West Germany, to meet up with a squatmate of mine who had attended Ealing Tech as a foreign student. Owing to a misunderstanding, by the time I arrived at a hippy farmhouse outside Marburg, my friend had gone to Spain. During

the night after my arrival, I was woken by a girl who thought I was someone else. We got talking, as you do. She invited me to travel with her to West Berlin with her friend the following day. I had nowhere else to go, so I accompanied the girl and her friend.

I spent three months in Berlin. I accompanied a French African on guitar at a club. He advised me to quit accompanying artists on guitar and go and get myself in a band. The hippy community I was living in disassembled just before Christmas 1977 and I went back to England. I worked on a Fearnley and Sons (Salford) Ltd. building site for a few months, earning money for an electric guitar. I bought a Telecaster in Manchester and took it down to London, to start auditioning for bands, from Harrow to Lewisham, Kingston-upon-Thames to Leytonstone and points in between. I was in a band called the Mixers, in Teddington, for a bit, but the band broke up. I ended up auditioning for a 'name band' in Islington, which turned out to feature Shane O'Hooligan, as Shane MacGowan was then known, as the lead singer. I was in the Nipple Erectors for maybe six months, living in short-life community housing with Shane and Jem Finer, who became the Pogues' banjo player.

I sold my guitar and amplifier and started writing, but neither finished nor published anything. I moved house, up to Mornington Crescent, where Jem Finer visited me one afternoon, bringing with him an accordion which Shane was sure I'd be able to learn, for a band he was starting. By October 1982, Pogue Mahone had formed and played our first gig at the Pindar of Wakefield in Kings Cross.

I suppose the rest is history - in the course of the first part of our career, up until we had to let Shane go in 1991, we made a number of records, one produced by our first manager, another by Elvis Costello (with whom we went on tour in 1984), two more by Steve Lillywhite (U2, Rolling Stones, etc.) and, the last one I played on, by Joe Strummer of the Clash. We played Madison Square Garden once, Croke Park in Dublin and Wembley Stadium. We were I suppose a composite character in one of Alex Cox's films, 'Straight to Hell', which came out in 1986. In 1987 we recorded 'Fairytale

of New York' with Kirsty MacColl, which, as you'll know, is the perennial Christmas classic, struggling to get to No.1 in the charts since it came out, but never managing it.

After we sacked Shane, I stayed on the group for a couple of years. I married Danielle von Zerneck, who was Donna from 'La Bamba', in 1989. My first daughter was born in 1993. By the end of 1993 I'd quit the Pogues and moved to Los Angeles to be a dad.

In 1994 I founded a group in Los Angeles, called The Low and Sweet Orchestra, with actor Dermot Mulroney, his screenwriter brother, Kieran, along with LA punk guitarist Zander Schloss (Circle Jerks, Thelionious Monster, etc.). We made a record for Interscope Records and then split up. My second daughter was born in 1996. I wrote and recorded the music for an independent film ('God's Lonely Man', directed by my brother-in-law, Francis von Zerneck).

In 2001 the Pogues reformed. We never recorded anything again, but travelled the world (bar a couple of continents) and sold out Brixton Academy every Christmas. The last gig we played was in Brest in 2014.

During that time, I wrote a memoir of my life during the first go-around of the Pogues. It's called 'Here Comes Everybody'. It was published by Faber and Faber in the UK in 2012 and by Chicago Review Press in the US in 2014. I've continued to play music with Dermot and Kieran Mulroney, forming a band called Cranky George. Our debut album, called 'Fat Lot of Good', came out at the end of 2016. Now, I'm working on a couple of projects for television and the establishment of a solo career, recording and performing with ex members of a couple of the bands which the Pogues spawned - Flogging Molly and Dropkick Murphys.

I've kept up with a handful of people from Ackworth. I went to a reunion in 2003. I swim at the Hollywood YMCA regularly. On occasions I share the water with Howard Woffinden, who was a scholar at Ackworth a couple of years below me. Odd, that.

VERONICA BIRD

Rounding off the Old Scholars' News section is a few words from Veronica Bird and how her start in life at Ackworth set her up for an entirely out of the ordinary career path.

I arrived at Ackworth School in September 1954 where I stood, looking up at the magnificent facades as if in paradise. Within an hour's travel I had come from the extreme poverty of Doncaster Road, Barnsley to a veritable land of milk and honey. I was underweight, fearful and lonely. By Christmas I was beginning to put on weight, I had made friends and was enjoying, and excelling in, every sport thrown at me.

I loved every minute of my time at Ackworth but was pulled away before I was due to complete my GCE exams. Afraid again and seeking help, I realised I would only be safe if I was inside a prison, so I applied to and was accepted into the Prison Service at a time when very few women wanted such a job. This was in August 1968.

Ackworth had taught me to work hard if I wanted to achieve in life. Application to my job proved this so, and I received rapid promotion as I worked daily with headline criminals such as Myra Hindley, Mary Bell and the Price Sisters. Eventually, I became a governor in Armley Prison, face to face with some of the hardest inmates in the country.



Close to retirement thirty-five years later I won the prestigious Butler Trust Award – (the first Prison governor ever to do so) presented to me by Princess Anne. A year later I was honoured by the Queen.

I ended my career by being asked to join a team to go to Russia to help advise on the many issues arising in their prisons. This alone, was a fascinating time in my life. Now, my book – 'Veronica's Bird' – is to be published in January 2018 with a book launch inside Pentonville Prison.

'Veronica's Bird' © 2018 Published by Clink Street Publications

OBITUARIES

Celia Wolfe - Hon Archivist



WILLIAM INESON

William Brook Ineson who was at school from 1903 to 1908 was a corporal in the Royal Field Artillery, and was killed on 25th October, 1917 in the battle of Passchendaele. He is buried in Ypres.

William came from Batley.

His brother, James Walker Ineson who was at school from 1904 to 1910 was a 2nd Lt in the Durham Light Infantry. He was killed on 19th May, 1917 and is buried near to Arras. Both boys' names are on the school war memorial.

On visiting William's grave on the centenary of the start of the battle of Passchendaele, I noticed that the inscription on the base of his headstone is the school motto - he certainly lived up to this.

We know of one other old scholar who has the school motto on his headstone and that is John Coy (scholar 1909 to 1913). He was killed on 21st October, 1916 on the Somme, and is buried at Heilly Station. He was a private in the Royal Fusiliers and was just 19 years old.

OSCAR WALLIS

Oscar Wallis Order of Service, 26th August 2017



PETER KELSALL

Peter John Kelsall 1951-56 died on 27th September 2017.

Peter passed away peacefully aged 78 after a long illness. He was born at Stratford-upon-Avon in 1939 before moving to London during the War. In 1948 the family moved to Bletchley Park and occupied a house once lived in by Alan Turing - although it was to be another 40 years before that name had any significance. He enjoyed a carefree childhood at Bletchley Park where he developed an interest in aero-modelling, something he enjoyed at Ackworth and throughout the rest of his life.

After leaving Ackworth in 1956 he soon joined G.C.H.Q. and after training travelled to many parts of the world. In his mid 40s he left to join a commercial firm producing satellites, pooling his previous experience. He was rightly proud that some of the component parts flying above our heads had been produced by him.

After retiring Peter and his wife Carol moved to North Cumbria and enjoyed a busy and happy life there. This included going to Carlisle Meeting House. Carol died in 1998. They had two children: Sophie and Matthew and two granddaughters. He leaves a partner of 15 years, Kath, and will be very much missed by family and friends.



JOHN CLIBBORN

John Barclay Clibborn is buried in grave A6 at Maple Leaf cemetery, Flanders. John was a pupil at Ackworth Quaker School in Yorkshire from 1898 to 1900. As an archivist, I am trying to visit and record as many of the Old Scholars' graves as I can. 75 lost their lives in the First World War. The cemeteries never fail to impress me and I have been visiting for about 25 years.

SHIRLEY CLIFFE

Shirley Cliffe (née Cartwright) was born in Huddersfield on 13th July 1929, and lived in the town all her life. She was educated at Wentworth School before her time at Ackworth, where she made friends who she kept in touch with throughout her life, enjoyed studying languages in particular and also represented the school at tennis.

After Ackworth she studied the piano at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester.

She married Tom Cliffe in 1953, and in 1963 they had a son, Giles.

In the last few years of her life she developed Alzheimer's Disease, but never lost her happy and friendly nature, or her independence. She died suddenly but very peacefully on 10th July 2017. She is greatly missed both by her family and her many friends.

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Ackworth School

Term at a Glance

SPRING

School Events:

Monday 8th January - Term Begins

Week commencing 8th Jan - 5th & U6th Mock Exam Week

Tuesday 16th January - Business & Education Fair 18.00

Saturday 27th January - PSA Winter Ball

Wednesday 31st January - 6th Form Open Evening 19.00

Tuesday 6th February - GCSE Options Evening 19.00

Monday 12th - Friday 16th February - Half Term

Friday 23rd March - Term Ends

Coram House Parents' Evenings:

Monday 15th January - Parent Forum Meeting 17.30

Senior School Parent – Staff Meetings:

Thursday 18th January - U6 Parent/Staff Meeting 18.30-20.00

Friday 26th January - 5th Form Parent/Staff Meeting 16.15-17.45

Wednesday 28th February - L6 Parent/Staff Meeting 18.30-20.00

Monday 5th March - 3rd Form Parent/Staff Meeting 18.30-20.00

