

THE OLD BLUE

AUTUMN 2021



CHRIST'S HOSPITAL

A SCHOOL LIKE NO OTHER



Entrepreneur Sam Bass helps adults rediscover a passion for team sport at Sport Up, Brisbane **2-3**

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If you Build it, (they) will Come

Sam Bass (LaA, GrE 99-06) lives in Australia and is an entrepreneur and investor. With a passion for all sports, Sam's breakthrough came in enabling people of working age to get back into informal team sport.

"I rather took the quality of sports' facilities and coaching at CH for granted," says Sam reflectively, as he considers the time and effort required to establish SportUP as the largest social sports club in Brisbane and the Sunshine Coast of Australia. With his 9,000 regular participants in team sports, Sam fully appreciates the complexity involved in delivering the sports programme at CH.

Coming to Christ's Hospital was something of a long journey for Sam. Born and brought up in Australia, Sam moved to the UK with his mother as a young child and had the opportunity to attend Horsham thanks to his Governor Roger Wickins. Roger, who lives in Australia, and Sam remain in regular contact and Sam is deeply grateful for his support and wise advice over many years.

Sport was Sam's great passion at CH and he played every sport he could, excelling in football in particular. This interest continued at Lancaster University where he undertook a degree in business management.

The lure of the Australian lifestyle

Sam travelled a good deal in the UK, but was keen to see "what else was out there". He had heard a great deal about Australian life from family members and was keen to experience it for himself. So, aged 21, he made the move to Australia and has stayed ever since.

Very much an outdoors person, Sam found the Australian way of life fits perfectly for him. From rock climbing to sailing, he found that sport is easily accessible and is very much part of the lifestyle there.

Searching for "social" sport – the genesis of Sport Up

Settling down in Brisbane went well. However, despite several months of searching and many dead ends, Sam couldn't find a sports team or club to join. Like many people of working age, Sam didn't have the time required for serious competitive club sport. He had established a coaching business for junior football, which was proving quite stressful and time-consuming, and the thought of joining what he saw as "sterile, unsocial gyms", and paying a monthly contract, was not an attractive prospect.

What Sam wanted – informal, more socially focused team sporting activity – could not be found. He was convinced that there were many people of working age who would be keen to get involved in informal team sports after work if the opportunity were there. So, Sam brought together a small group of friends for a casual evening game of football after work. The numbers swelled and soon there were enough teams to start a friendly competition. SportUP was born.

If you build it, (they) will come

With a vision to help people to enjoy team sports again as an adult, Sam's journey with SportUP was underway. First up was finding venues for the games, and Sam quickly focused on schools and government organisations with sports facilities that were not being used in the evenings. Hiring the facilities was complex, but he soon built up an excellent network of venues that continues to this day.

Building an easy-to-use registration website was critical. Sam created a bright and accessible site that allowed individuals or teams to select from a wide range of sports including netball, football, volleyball and basketball. They would then choose from one of the local venues for that sport and select a single spot (to be placed in a friendly team) or a team spot.

Finally, Sam needed referees. SportUP now has 65 referees across the range of sports.

Now built, it was not long before they did come. Whether individuals or groups of friends combining to form a team, hundreds signed up. Corporate teams were particularly popular, with work mates rekindling happy memories of playing team sports at school.

"It was enormous fun, but I definitely learnt some lessons" says Sam. The biggest was no doubt getting the product right. SportUP started by allowing participants to pay for one game at a time, but Sam soon realised that this was not sustainable for ensuring teams had the full number of players required. The answer came in requiring individuals and teams to sign up for a 12-week season. This included a competition framework with grand finals at the end to instil commitment and excitement. However, the emphasis remained on the fun, and all sports included monthly social get-togethers.



"I rather took the quality of sports facilities and coaching at CH for granted"

The value of regular sports participation

Beyond the well-documented physical health benefits, Sam is a huge advocate of sport helping with our mental health. Whether through reducing stress, aiding good sleep patterns or combating loneliness through social contact, Sam feels strongly that participation in team sport can be enormously beneficial for our wellbeing.

Sam also sees the importance of giving school-aged children exposure to a wide range of sports as well as the traditional team games. Sam's experience through SportUP suggests that most adults getting back into a team sport will choose one of the traditional sports they played at school (netball, football, cricket etc). This can limit their opportunities for participation locally, so if they have experience of a broader portfolio of sports at school, they are more likely to find opportunities to continue one of these when they are an adult.

New ventures

With SportUP firmly established and a chief executive in place, Sam has set up or invested in a wide range of other businesses. Sam's main focus is Chief Operators – a community for investors

and operators buying profitable internet businesses in the \$200k-\$10m range. These businesses range from eCommerce and SaaS (Software as a Service) companies through to content and media sites. Sam has found that this is a growing trend and enjoys getting to talk to other online entrepreneurs and investors from all over the world every day.

Sharing the knowledge

Like many entrepreneurs, Sam is generous in sharing what he has learnt on his journey. Reflecting on his time at CH, Sam talks about the process and enjoyment of learning that he learnt while at school. This has been hugely valuable, helping him to navigate the learnings required to build a company. Key though has been the advice from Sam's tutor at CH, Mr Kemp, who taught Sam an excellent approach to planning and organising that he uses to this day and who had a big impact on Sam's life.

When asked what his advice would be to Old Blues considering establishing a new business, Sam is keen to stress that there are many ways to become an entrepreneur. This includes through buying a business, which "can be so much easier than setting something up from scratch!"

Sam is a great believer in ensuring one has the freedom to live comfortably and enjoy life. He paraphrases Naval Ravikant – the Indian-American entrepreneur and investor who founded AngelList – in saying, "If you seek freedom, seek wealth and not money." For Sam, this has meant focusing on assets – like SportUP – that, once established, earn income "while you sleep" rather than chasing a high salary with the commitments that this entails. For Sam, this freedom means that he has time to get involved in a wide range of projects that take his interest – and, of course, take part in lots of fun team sport.



Activity for Life: The Future of Sport at CH

The benefits of regular exercise go far beyond the school sports field. As well as tackling obesity and inactivity, sport helps positively to impact the well-being of young people. Our new Activity for Life programme empowers every pupil with the knowledge and skills needed to make responsible lifestyle choices and engage in lifelong physical activity.

Sport is changing at Christ's Hospital

Many schools will claim that they operate a sports programme that caters for all pupils; from those who are starting out on the pathway of physical activity to those who are aspiring to represent their country on the sports field. However, when looking at a school sports programme, look beyond the number of teams that compete on a Saturday or the list of alumni who have gained national honours. Delve beyond this veneer into the programme on offer and as you do so ask the question "What is the purpose of sport in schools?"

At CH, we firmly believe that physical activity is vital to a person's well-being. To be physically active depends on feeling confident in an activity setting, therefore, as a school, it is important to invest in the education of body function and movement.



Activity for life

The 'Activity for Life' programme at CH aims to provide an enjoyable, satisfying, and balanced programme. This empowers every pupil with the knowledge and skills needed to make responsible lifestyle choices, that positively impact on their health and well-being.

Here at CH pupils are educated in an environment to give them the best opportunities in life, allowing them to develop areas of interest and/or excellence that will stay with them well beyond leaving school, thus helping them to engage in lifelong physical activity.



"Sport and physical activity at CH is about so much more than putting on the CH team kit and representing the school on a Saturday afternoon. Our programme really is Activity for Life"

David Messenger,
Director of Sport



Old Blue Sports Groups

The friendships made through involvement in sport at Christ's Hospital last well beyond your time at School.

We are proud to have a flourishing Old Blue sporting community through which Old Blues regularly meet across a variety of sports, including sailing, cricket, football, golf and rugby.

Group leaders act as a point of contact, to help you connect with others who share a common sporting interest and organise various matches, activities and events.

For more information visit:
choba.org/groups



Guiding principals

Our Activity for Life programme is based on three key principles:

- developing the CH (SPORT) values;
- developing an understanding of how to participate and the subsequent benefits of participation; and
- developing an understanding of how to compete and how to enhance performance.

What does this mean for our pupils?

All pupils will have an equal opportunity to experience physical activity that emphasises participation, practice, engagement and enjoyment. Specifically, our Second Form (Year 7) pupils will follow a programme that emphasises values and multi-sport development. In the Third Form (Year 8), we build into this the concept of learning to compete and in the LE (Year 9), we have enhanced skill development with increased competition.

Pupils will experience a carousel of sporting activities in Years 7 and 8, leading to a programme of choice in Year 9 and the introduction of "Lifestyle" activities. Alongside this, pupils will have one session a week delivered by physical education and sport specialists

in the build-up to their participation/performance session on a Saturday.

As pupils progress to the senior part of the school, the programme develops into a three-strand approach:

- lifestyle activities – cardio-vascular based activities (using our fabulous on-site facilities at Bluecoats Sports) including programmes such as "couch-to-5k";
- recreational sport – pupils can opt for new sports or continue with their favourite established sport with a more activity-based approach, such as mixed hockey; and
- aspirational sport – the high-quality coaching programme at CH allows those aspirational pupils to progress to represent the school, county, academy, even national level.

During these senior years, as pupils evolve within the Activity for Life programme, they decide which of the three strands they will gravitate towards. Pupils can have a hybrid programme i.e. recreational in one sport and aspirational in another. The dedicated and enthusiastic staff at CH work hard to ensure that all sessions are pupil-centred, with the pupils being engaged cognitively and emotionally, as well as physically.

Restoring Doctor's Lake for Future Generations

This summer marked the beginning of a project to restore the lake to the north of the School site, known as 'Doctor's Lake', as part of our landscape-management responsibilities. In the long term, we hope that the restored lake will provide opportunities for school use, including open water swimming, biology lessons, fishing, and CCF activities including canoeing and raft building, along with other broader curricular pursuits that will link with CH's new challenge curriculum.

Doctor's Lake pre-dates the school occupation of the CH site and, over the decades, significant build-up of silt has caused the lake to lose depth and reduce in surface area by up to 50%.

Overall, around 6,500 cubic metres of silt have been removed from Doctor's Lake, including the restoration of the dilapidated 'Upper Pond', which feeds water into the main Doctor's Lake, acting as a sediment trap to protect it. The dredged material is very fertile and has been spread on two local fields that CH owns, which will be reseeded to grass meadows for next spring.

The restoration project is safeguarding an important natural environment for years to come, to ensure that wildlife habitats continue to thrive. Not only does the lake have a healthy stock of fish, but there is also a significant area of riparian woodland and macrophyte vegetation around the lake edge, which supports an abundance of wildlife.

Going forward, CH plans to install infrastructure such as perimeter paths and fishing pontoons for access to the lake before it can be used once again by the School. Dredging to remove further silt build-up every 10 years will also remain an important part of the maintenance regime for the Upper Pond.

The restoration project will ensure that this once underused and dilapidated natural asset is returned for school use once again, to ensure that the next generation have access to this beautiful landscape.

We are incredibly grateful to Old Blue James Maclean (MaA, LaB, LaA 81-88), CEO of leading environmental engineering firm Land & Water, who offered his company's services to undertake the dredging and restoration project at a reduced cost to support the School.

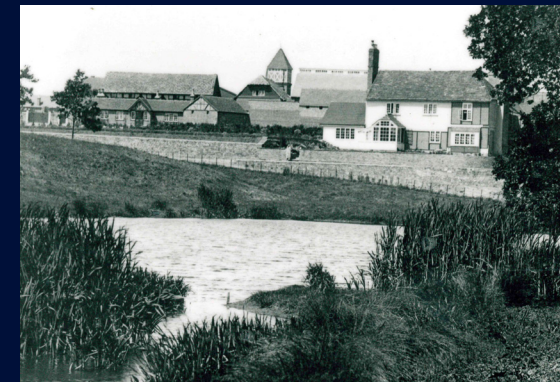


"It is a great honour to be back at the School which gave me such a diverse and transformational education, and to be able to provide the services of Land & Water to enable the current pupils to thrive in an outdoor environment. Christ's Hospital is an extraordinary place. For 469 years, it has been the biggest giver of bursary education in the UK, and I'm proud to be part of its history which provides hope and confidence to its pupils."

James Maclean, Old Blue (MaA, LaB, LaA 81-88) and CEO of Land & Water

How Doctor's Lake got its name

When the CH School was built in Horsham, the School Medical Officer, Dr Herbert Aldersmith, was offered a new house close to the Infirmary. However, he preferred the house called Stammerham, which was the former residence of the manager of the Aylesbury Dairy Company, from which the School site was purchased in 1892. This house (pictured right) had views overlooking the lake, which is probably how Doctor's Lake got its name.



Dredging up memories

A past issue of *The Blue* recorded references to ice-skating on the Lake in the 1920s and in the 1962/63 winter, when ice-hockey was also played. Pupils did fish in the Lake, although the question remains as to whether such activities were within the School rules!

Old Blue Martin Steggals (ThA 54-60) recalls escaping the Boarding House at some ridiculously early hour to fish at the lake, but on arriving was thwarted by heavy mist which hung over the water. He recalled a fellow ThA pupil having more success on another occasion, catching a tench which weighed in at about four pounds. He also remembers that, on having transferred some carp from the nearby Duck Pond to the Lake, the fish consumed much of the duck-weed there, growing to a good size in the process, probably in excess of ten pounds!



Finding the voice of Christ's Hospital past and present

Lizzie Ballagher (4s 61-67) is a widely published author and poet. After a career in teaching and editing, she has written a fascinating collection of 79 poems on the history, character and mission of Christ's Hospital.



writer, encouraging her in creative writing and reciting poetry in particular. It was a friendship that lasted for life, with Lizzie remaining in regular contact until Mrs Betterton's death in 2001.

Already alive with the love of writing, Lizzie began an English degree in 1968 at the newly-founded University of Ulster. The heady mix of pioneering lecturers and breadth of Irish, American and English literature opened up a new world for Lizzie. During this time, Lizzie began to amass a body of poetry.

New directions in the US and beyond

Lizzie's tutor at Ulster encouraged her to apply for a scholarship to the University of Pennsylvania and in 1973 she started her Master's there. She began her first novel, married an American, and settled in Philadelphia.

Focused on having a career while trying to sustain her writing in her spare time, Lizzie started her first teaching post with Year 6 pupils at St Peter's School in Philadelphia, before teaching in New York State from 1975-82. While she had little time to write, her first poem was published by a Chicago magazine in 1976. Her first novel, six years in gestation, was published in 1984.

The whole editorial process was a revelation for Lizzie and, in 1982, she trained as an editor, later joining a

publishing company in Bromley, where she had moved with her two children. It was in the UK that Lizzie met her second husband, John, and they married in 1999.

A special symmetry

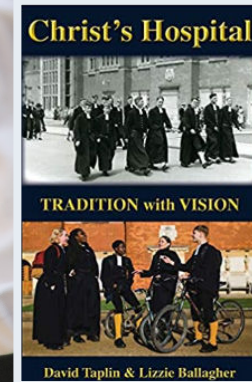
While maintaining her passion for writing and editing, Lizzie returned to teaching, joining Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School in Rochester. Established in 1701 to teach navigation and mathematics to the sons of Freeman of the City of Rochester, the shared history with CH's own Royal Mathematical School was fascinating for Lizzie.

A knock at the door

Perhaps Rochester prepared Lizzie for what took place just over three years ago. In her retirement, Lizzie dedicated most mornings to writing. She joined the Poetry Society and served a year as Resident Poet for the South Downs Way - the perfect position for someone who calls herself a "landscape poet".

Then, in September 2018, Lizzie was contacted by Old Blue David Taplin, wishing to commission a collection of poems about CH for the book *Christ's Hospital: Tradition with Vision*. Up to that point Lizzie had never written about CH. What followed was akin to "the opening of many windows, with characters and stories rushing in". With huge help from the CH Museum and many Old Blues who shared their stories, Lizzie spent an intense but fascinating and creative 12 months writing some 79 poems. The result is a compelling collection covering much of the character, history, humour, gravitas and compassion that, for Lizzie, mark CH down the centuries.

Particularly special was finding the voices of other people in her poems - Coleridge, William Wales and many more - as well as meeting many people in the CH community with whom she had so much in common.



Christ's Hospital: Tradition with Vision

A collection of Lizzie's poems written in celebration of CH was published in 2020 in the book *Christ's Hospital: Tradition with Vision* (ISBN paperback: 978-1-83975-017-5 / hardback: 978-1-83975-016-8).

Faced with the challenge of selecting two poems for inclusion with this article, Lizzie chose first a truly significant change, as the girls arrived at Horsham from Hertford in 1985. Second, she selected 2018's Sunday at the Cenotaph, for which CH's wonderful Band led the way at the centenary commemoration.

All proceeds from the sale of the book support the Benevolent Society of Blues.

The Naming of Names, Horsham, 1985

*'O be some other name
Belonging to a man.
What's in a name? That which we call a rose
By any other name would smell as sweet.'*
Shakespeare's *Romeo & Juliet*, 11:2:41-44

After the Hertford invasion:
startling changes—
not all obvious...

never mind the shock and strangeness
of girls sitting eagle-eyed in science labs,
or racing on the playing fields,
or singing in the choir:

young women with clear voices, minds of their own,
who told us they felt they'd been let out of gaol
coming to all this space,
this open space...

no, what had altered most
for those of us who noticed such a thing
was how the masters changed the way
they spoke to us by name:

no longer were we Smith or Shufflebottom,
Kwame, Hardwick or O'Doherty:
but John or Peter;
Jamal, Richard, Daniel...

suddenly we were selved again,
humanised and honoured for our own beings—
not just for our family name
but for who we knew ourselves to be...
since there was little honey in the rapped out,
snapped out surname summoning us;

so it was sweet to hear
upon the tongues of those who taught us
the names bestowed so lovingly from the start,
our titles and entitlement:
the names we knew as birthright.

Sunday at the Cenotaph, 2018

I haven't seen you since the summer.
You've grown: your hair though tied in wispy plaits
still drifts in the Whitehall breeze,
but you are carried forward
on the cloud of music and remembrance
marching with all your friends
as you lead the People's Procession past the Cenotaph:

black shoes gleam from under bluecoats
on the scuffed November pavements;
ahead of you the whirl and flail of drumsticks,
the white-gloved precision of the drum major.

How upright you are,
shining eyes so fixed on the sheet-music
that you don't see me in the crowd,
your proud grandmother
here to remember her own grandfather,
the one she never knew,
your twice great-grandfather
who lost his life on the Somme
among so many more—

the grandmother who watches now with swelling pride
the strange mix of solemnity and cheek
that seems to mark the children of Christ's Hospital.

Your band is a rainbow of defiance,
dazzling against the steel-grey streets of London's winter,
a loud shout of dissent
in the face of a murderous century of war.

Exhilarated, bright with joy and hope,
you march past a hundred string
behind the flail and whirl of drumsticks,
the giggles of the piccolos,
the sonorous tones of saxophones
and pompous boom of the big bass drum...

while you with your wispy plaits and unwavering eyes,
with all your gentle innocence of war,
push out the glittering slide of your trombone—
it's almost as long as you are tall—
and pass me—your proud granny in the crowd—
in your bright cloud of music.



Success for Bright Futures Campaign Raising £1.6 million!

Thanks to gifts from 1,082 Old Blues, parents and friends, our Bright Futures campaign has now surpassed its £1.5m fundraising target!

We have received donations from supporters in 21 countries across the globe, showcasing what a global community we have at Christ's Hospital. Every single donation is very much appreciated, and we want to say a huge thank you to everyone who has contributed.

When we launched the campaign in September 2019, our aim was to ensure a CH education for more bright students, regardless of their background or circumstances. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, CH has been able to offer 18 young people from disadvantaged backgrounds an opportunity to thrive and reach their full potential.

The £1.6 million raised in donations and pledges for the Bright Futures campaign will fund the first three years of these 18 bursary places. Fundraising will of course continue to raise the remaining funds in the long term, but this is a great milestone to reach and one that we are delighted to be celebrating.

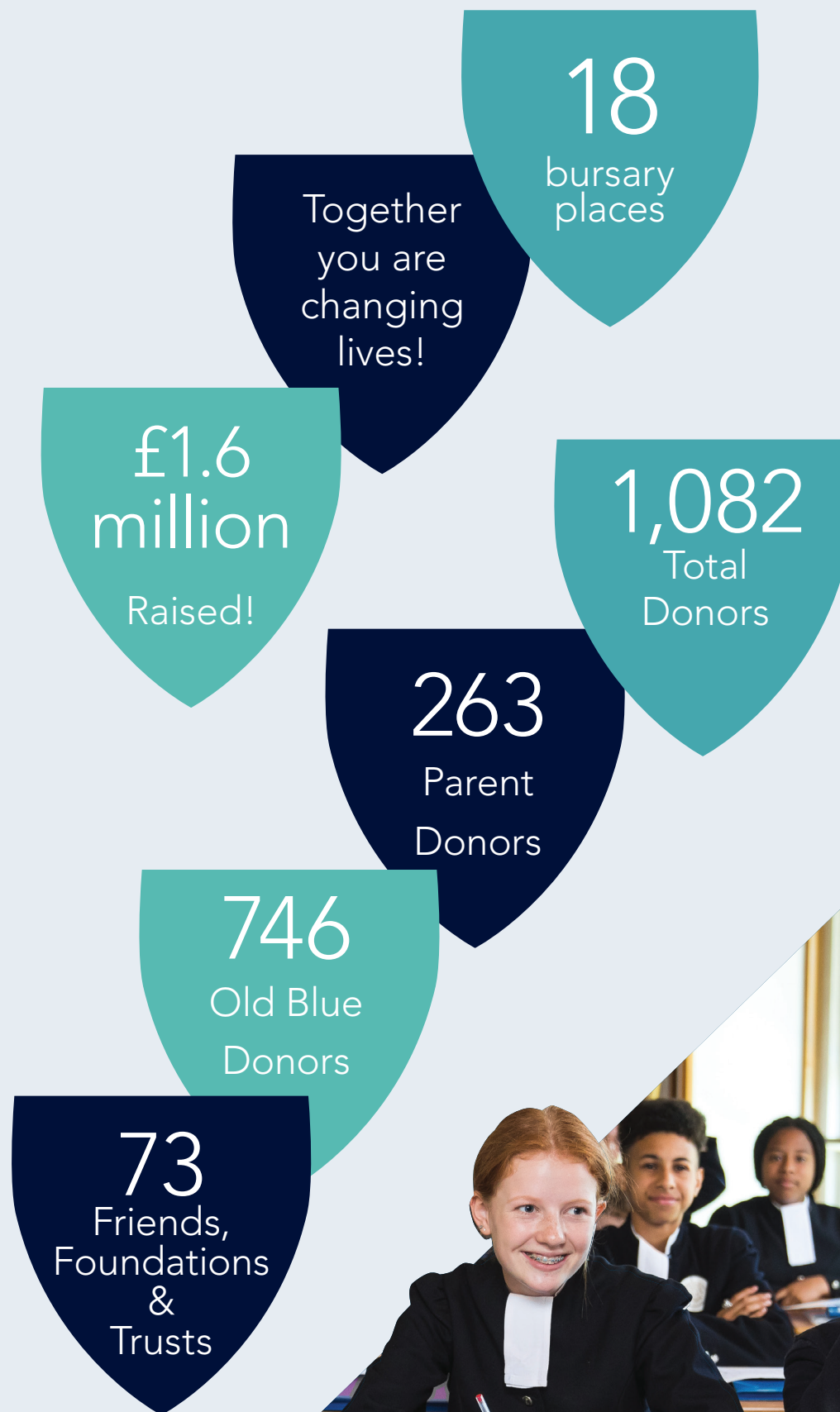
**YOU MADE
BRIGHT
FUTURES
POSSIBLE**

Bursary support for disadvantaged children is right at the heart of what CH was founded to do. Now, 469 years later, CH continues to play a vital role in providing opportunities to the next generation and the generosity of our donors remains a key part of our mission to challenge inequality through transformative education.

In the last year, much of the campaign activity focused on the impact of Covid-19. For children from the most vulnerable backgrounds, the impact of the pandemic presents unexpected and long-lasting challenges - the need for bursary places supported by our Bright Futures campaign has therefore never been greater.

"We are incredibly grateful to every single person who has supported us to make Bright Futures possible. When we set the target of raising £1.5 million, we knew it was ambitious, but thanks to the incredible generosity of our community we were delighted to achieve our goal! When the last year has been very difficult for so many people, we appreciate your support now more than ever. Thank you!" Hugo Middlemas, Director of Development

THANK YOU!



Telephone campaign boosts Bright Futures fundraising total

Thank you to all our Old Blues, parents and friends who supported our summer Telephone Campaign. Our fantastic team of 13 recent leavers spoke to more than 500 Old Blues and parents, and really enjoyed their conversations: sharing news and hearing others' experiences of CH and beyond.

More than 340 of those we spoke to generously supported CH with gifts, collectively raising more than £200,000 in donations and pledges which will help CH in the following ways:

- The Bright Future's Campaign: to help provide 18 bursary places.
- The Education Fund: to provide current pupils with access to the resources to enhance their educational experience.
- The Additional Costs Fund: to help support families in exceptional financial need, helping fund travel costs, school trips and sports uniform.



"I think this is the third or fourth time I have had the pleasure of being part of the Telephone Campaign - and last evening's call with Manon was no exception! It was a real pleasure, and what a great ambassador she is for 'a school like no other!' Thoroughly enjoyed the chat. It is a brilliant win-win scheme, hopefully netting cash and support for various CH funds for present and future pupils, and at the same time connecting very young Old Blues with fairly ancient Old Blues in a most pleasurable way". Old Blue Valerie Nesbitt (3s 56-63)

Thinking Ahead? Do Something Wonderful for the Future and Leave a Gift in your Will

Last year, the School received an astonishing figure of £6 million from gifts in Wills generously left to the School by Old Blues, parents and supporters. At such a difficult time, these legacies make a very real difference to the support and opportunities offered to our pupils and their families.

Leaving a gift in your Will is a wonderful way to support the School for the future at no cost to you during your lifetime. It can even help reduce any inheritance tax (IHT) liability for your family/friends as if you leave 10% of your estate to charity, IHT is reduced from 40% to 34%.

For those of you who have not recently reviewed your Will or don't have one, why should you consider drafting a Will?

Here are just some of the reasons why:

1. You have control over what happens with your money, possessions and property when you die.
2. You will help reduce the worry, work and stress for your loved ones going through a difficult time following your death. A Will often results in a cheaper and quicker administration of an estate.
3. You choose your executor/s who will handle and distribute your estate according to your wishes. You can choose people you trust, and who you have confidence in to act responsibly.
4. Without a Will, you die intestate. The "intestacy rules" will decide for you who will benefit from your estate, which may be against your wishes. The intestacy rules also determine who will deal with your estate.
5. You can name the legal guardian of your child or children (while they are under 18); so you know who will be able to make decisions for them if they are orphaned.
6. Without a Will, only your spouse or blood relatives will automatically inherit from you and even in those circumstances it is not as straightforward as you may expect. If you want to provide for your partner, step-children or other loved ones you will need a Will.
7. You can leave instructions to your executor. For example, you may request specific funeral arrangements or request a specific person to care for your pets.
8. You can choose to support a charity or charities by leaving a gift or donation. Making a gift to charity is quite simple and free of Inheritance Tax and Capital Gains Tax. If you leave 10% or more of your estate to charity, the amount of IHT payable on your estate is reduced from 40% to 36%.

It is always best to take professional advice when drawing up a Will. **The Law Society** is an independent professional body for solicitors with a searchable directory which can be found at lawsociety.org.uk

Join the 1552 Society

The 1552 Society was formed to recognise and thank those who inform Christ's Hospital that they have left a bequest to the School. Each year, there is a special event for members and previous occasions have included Beating Retreat, School plays and even a concert in London. Should you consider following in the footsteps of so many Old Blues and other supporters by considering leaving a gift to CH please contact the Development Office so that you are welcomed to the 1552 Society and invited to future events.

When drawing up a Will, we do ask that you keep the use of your gift for general charitable purposes. This way, CH will be able to use your gift where it is most needed at the time. If there is a specific aspect of school life that you particularly wish to support, we would be pleased to talk this through with you. Please refer to Christ's Hospital as The Christ's Hospital Foundation, charity number 306975.



If you have been thinking about including CH in your plans for the future and require further information, please contact **Sarah Clifton** on 01403 247588 or email development@christs-hospital.org.uk

Blue Fund Reaches £226,000 Target to Support a Fifth Pupil

Thank you to the 358 Old Blues, parents and other friends who joined together to help us achieve our goal. In just 12 months you raised the £226,000 needed to support a child's seven-year education and boarding at CH.

The funds raised will support our fifth Blue Fund pupil, Kyrea, who joined the Second Form in September.

"I was very happy to be accepted to CH, but nervous to come too because I would be boarding; however, I have settled in very well. So far, I have most enjoyed swimming, movie night and the Second Form disco, and I am looking forward to meeting more people and exploring more of the school!"
Kyrea, new Blue Fund pupil

Fundraising will now continue towards our sixth Blue Fund, which will have a new target of £231,000 to offer an outstanding boarding education to another child who might not otherwise be able to afford it.

We look forward to keeping you updated with Kyrea's progress as she continues her CH experience.



SAVE THE DATE FOR

#GIVING TUESDAY

30 NOVEMBER, 2021

WHAT IS GIVING TUESDAY?

Giving Tuesday is a global day focused on charitable giving. On Tuesday 30 November, the CH community will, once again, come together to celebrate this special day, and we hope that you, your friends and family will join us.

This year, we will be raising funds for the **Additional Costs Fund** to support those in exceptional financial need, helping to fund travel costs, house funds, school trips, sports uniform and other basic additional costs.

GET INVOLVED

- Give a gift of any size at www.christs-hospital.org.uk/support-us/ or complete the enclosed gift form;
- Spread the word to involve friends and family;
- Like and share our posts on social media @chhousey.

LOOK OUT FOR MORE DETAILS COMING
SOON ON EMAIL AND SOCIAL MEDIA

Events

With Covid restrictions easing, we are delighted to have been able to introduce more events to the calendar. Here are just some of the highlights from the past few months.



Old Blue Summer Visits, CH, August

Bluecoat Concert, The Royal Overseas League, London

Old Blues' Golfing Society, Cowdray Park, September

Class of 2020 return for belated Leavers' Service, CH, September

New Zealand Old Blue lunch, Auckland July

We aim to plan further reunions and events for Old Blues in 2022 in a responsible way, and are aware of concerns around large groups coming together. With this in mind, please expect the quantity, location and format of reunions and events to differ from those in recent years for the time being.

Dates for your Diary

School events

School Concert, CH
Sunday 28 November at 3pm

Chicago the High School Edition, CH
Thursday 2, Friday 3, Saturday 4 December, 7.30pm

Big Band Concert, CH
Thursday 9 December, 8pm

Tickets

Tickets can be purchased at: www.christs-hospital.org.uk or by calling the CH Box Office on 01403 247434 between the hours of 9.30am and 12noon each weekday.

Please note that performances may be rescheduled in response to the pandemic. Where possible, ticket-holders will be contacted about any changes and the website updated. We encourage the wearing of a face mask when in close proximity to other members of the public, and our hand-sanitising stations and enhanced cleaning regimes will remain in place. We will continue to do all that we can to ensure your visit to Christ's Hospital is safe and secure.

Old Blue Virtual Talks

Join us online every Wednesday in November for stimulating virtual talks with inspirational Old Blues.

Speakers will be sharing insights across various topics including: climate change; biodiversity research; modern day story-telling; and Dylan Thomas.

Find out more and register at: choba.org/events

Talks will be streamed via Zoom and there will be opportunity to put your questions to our speakers at the end.

CHOBA Carol Concert

16 December 2021

6pm (Choir rehearsal from 4pm)

The Church of St Stephen Walbrook, 39 Walbrook, London, EC4N 8BN

We invite you to join us for a glass of mulled wine or juice after the concert.

Mindful of the continuing impact of Covid-19, we may need to reduce numbers or cancel at short notice. This year, the event will, therefore, be **free for Old Blues and their families**, with an invitation for a small, non-refundable, voluntary contribution* towards running costs.

Tickets must be booked in advance

Book online at www.choba.org/events or complete and return the form below.

Tickets are required on the door and will be sent to you a minimum of 7 days before the event. Numbers are limited; so please book only if you are certain you can attend.

* Should we need to cancel the concert for any reason, contributions will be re-directed as a donation to the Christ's Hospital Additional Costs Fund.



CHOBA Carol Concert Booking Form

Please complete and return this form to:
CHOBA, The Counting House, Christ's Hospital, Horsham, West Sussex, RH13 0YP

Name.....

Address

Email.....

Phone No.

Keeping in touch. CH would like to use your details to contact you about alumni news, events, and fundraising activities.

I am happy to be contacted by email

I am happy to be contacted by telephone

Your personal details on this form will be stored and used in accordance with current UK data-protection legislation. For more details please refer to our Privacy Notice at www.christs-hospital.org.uk/privacy-notice

I would like to book the following number of places: Adult tickets Child tickets

I / We would like to sing in the Old Blues Choir and will arrive at the church at 4pm to attend rehearsal (please tick)

I enclose a cheque made payable to Christ's Hospital for £.....as a non-refundable, voluntary contribution towards the cost of running the event. I understand that in the event the concert is cancelled my contribution will be re-directed as a donation to the Christ's Hospital Additional Costs Fund.

Please Note: Photographs taken at events may be used on our website, social-media pages or for CHOBA publicity. If you, or a member of your party, do not wish to be photographed during an event please make a member of staff aware on your arrival. If you wish for any photos used online to be removed after the event please let us know.

The Growing Prominence of CH Sport

With the new Activity for Life programme starting this year (see pages 4 and 5 for more details) it is interesting to reflect on how sport has evolved at CH over the centuries. We delved into the origins of CH sport with the help of the CH Museum, and found some old photographs and illustrations to contrast with our modern-day setting.

London: CH overturned its 1725 ban on ball games in the 1860s, which allowed the benefits of exercise and sport to be more formally embraced. All four playgrounds had hard surfaces (stone, gravel or asphalt) which determined versions of each sport with rules defined by the playground space. However, in the early 1870s, CH obtained grass playing fields for rugby and cricket, playing regular inter-school matches.

Then | Now

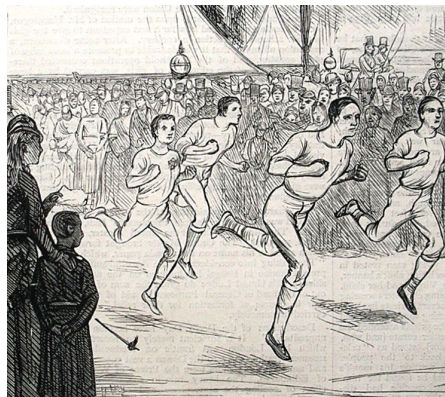
1860s

"Housey Football" was a game adapted to the unique setting of the main playground, the "Hall Play". From 1874, the game was based on rugby union, with regular, fiercely contested matches between ward teams and full rugby-style tackling mitigated only by encouragement to tackle high.



1860s

An **athletics** sports day, featuring Old Blues and pupils, took place annually in the gymnasium from the late 1860s. Events included high jump, long jump, running races, climbing the ropes, vaulting and stone gathering. A decorated grandstand was erected, a large crowd attended and the band played at intervals. From 1874, the event moved to the grass playing fields which CH used for team sports.



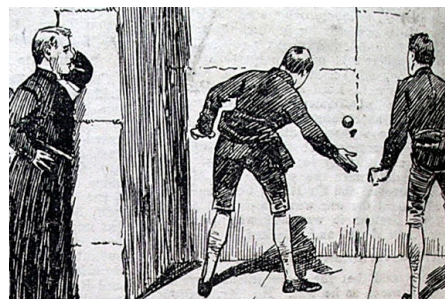
1864

An outdoor **gymnasium** was built in 1864, located in the Compter playground, which CH acquired when the adjacent Compter prison was demolished in 1854. Gymnastics prizes were awarded from 1865, and from 1866 every boy received one weekly lesson in gymnastics from May to July.



1871

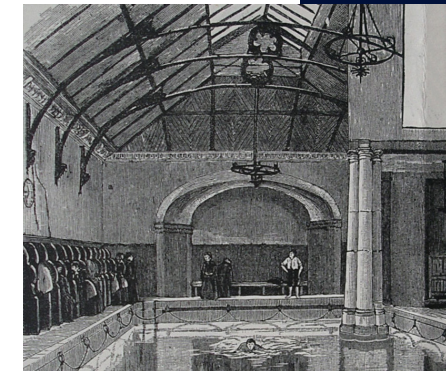
Fives courts were built against a wall of the Compter Playground in 1871, and fives soon became a popular sport throughout the London school. A junior and a senior championship began in 1875, and Lord Rosebery presented a fives challenge cup in 1889.



Then | Now

1880

Swimming was originally a leisure activity in Peerless Pool, Islington. By 1870, races took place at the Lambeth Baths, Westminster. Events included the long race, swimming on back, swimming under water, diving for eggs, hurdle race, swimming in clothes and in tubs. CH built a swimming bath in 1870 to which the annual swimming races were transferred from 1880.



Hertford: In 1886, girls at Hertford gained partial access to the sports field. However, boys' sport remained prioritised, and girls could only access the field in their absence. This was the case until 1902, when the boys relocated to Horsham.



1890s

Tennis became popular in the 1870s in private schools, and by the 1890s CH girls had a well-established tennis tradition. Girls played inter-ward tennis competitions and external matches against other schools, as well as matches against their mistresses and Old Girls on special occasions.



1902

Once the Hertford boys relocated to Horsham, their former sports teacher, Mr Sharpe, remained in Hertford to coach the girls. His focus on **cricket** was a practical decision to stick to the sports he knew, but it established CH as one of the few public schools that pioneered girls' cricket.



1902-09

Although there are records of girls playing **Hockey** at Hertford from 1899, it wasn't until 1902 that a Hockey club was formed, with Mr Sharpe, and some mistresses acting as coaches. **Netball** was instituted at Hertford in around 1908, and girls took part in **swimming** races from at least 1909. In terms of general fitness, girls also carried out **drill**, a keep-fit exercise routine.



Learn more at the CH museum – Tuesdays and Thursday 10am-4pm. Contact chmuseum@christs-hospital.org.uk or 01403 247444

Old Blue News

Francis Scarr (PeA, GrW 06-13) features in Radio 4's *From Our Own Correspondent* Podcast, reporting on his travels to the city of Tver and how the figure of medieval prince Alexander Nevsky is being used by today's Russian authorities to inspire patriotic fervour. You can listen to his piece (from the 16:53 mark of the 15 July edition) at: bbc.co.uk/programmes/p09phf7g



SHARE YOUR NEWS TODAY!

Let us know what you've been doing and celebrate your successes.

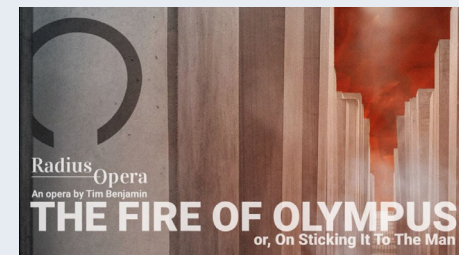
Email us at oldblues@christs-hospital.org.uk or join the conversation on Twitter and Facebook @CHOldBlues



Julian Bishop (ColB, MdB, MaB 77-84) now has a bi-weekly podcast, *An American Journey*, about all things American. Each episode explores a place to visit, a cultural feature of America and something in the American news. Listen to the podcast at: stitcher.com/show/an-american-journey



Guy Masterson (Mastroianni) (LHB, PeA 72-79) is directing new theatre show *The Shark is Broken*, which opened in the West End in October. The play reveals the hilarious behind-the-scenes drama on one of Hollywood's biggest blockbusters: *Jaws*. Tickets available until January 2022. For more details visit: thesharkisbroken.com



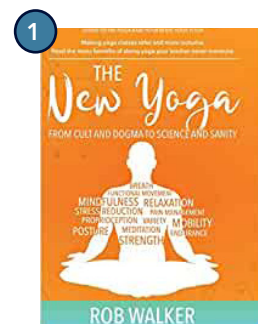
Tim Benjamin (PeB, PeA 87-92) had his first symphony debut in September by the Timisoara Banatul Philharmonic, conducted by Rumon Gamba, in both Timisoara (2021 European City of Culture) and at the Enescu Festival in Bucharest. For more information and to listen visit Tim's website: timbenjamin.com/music/symphony

Tim's opera *The Fire of Olympus; or, On Sticking It To The Man* has been made into a cinematic film following the 2019 tour. You can access it at: marquee.tv/videos/fireofolympus

Old Blues in Print

1. Rob Walker (PrepA, Mda 59-66) *The New Yoga: From Cults and Dogma to Science and Sanity*

Where did most of your yoga moves come from? A guru from the annals of Indian folklore? Or are those "thousand-year-old poses" really a 20th-century invention hidden behind a veil of tall stories? Were they based on movement science or cooked-up creations with a big pinch of folklore? *The New Yoga* takes a brutally hard look at these critical questions.



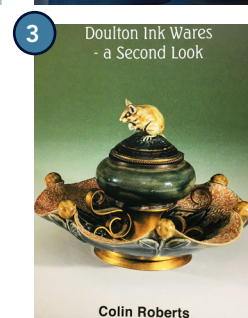
2. Simon Davies (LHB, PeA 68-75) *The Cornfield Critics*

The Cornfield Critics (and Beetfield Book Club (Affiliated)) meet every Tuesday and Thursday evening in the copse by the stream, to recite and discuss their favourite writings. But they are different from other book clubs. First, none of them can read. This problem is solved when they enlist long-suffering Will, the farmer's son, to be their reader. Oh, and there's another difference...



3. Colin Roberts (BaB 54-61) *Doulton Ink Wares - a Second Look*

The book describes the evolution and development of Doulton's ink-related products at Lambeth and Burslem over the past century and a half, including the various generic forms of ink-well from the earliest squat-waisted and bulbous forms to the more inventive fountain inks and isobaths.



Message from the Chair of the CHOBA Board

First, I would like to welcome the class of 2021 whole-heartedly as the newest members of the Old Blue community. Your commitment, resilience and strength of character has been inspiring in what has been a challenging last year. For the class of 2020, I am also delighted that you had the opportunity to return to CH this term, to take part in a special leavers' service in lieu of the send-off you sadly missed in your final year. In years to come, membership of the classes of 2020 and 2021 will be a badge of honour hard won.

Whether you are a recent leaver, a university student on your career journey or enjoying life in retirement, the Christ's Hospital Old Blues Association (CHOBA) is here to support the whole Old Blue community. We're here to help you maintain a lifelong connection with CH and with each other, sharing experiences and expertise, mentoring or being a mentee, enjoying reunions, events and networking opportunities. I encourage you to sign up to the CHOBA website at choba.org where you can find out more information.

Something I have really missed over the past 18 months is the chance to meet more Old Blues in person. With the

return of a more "normal service", I am delighted that a fuller schedule of events is starting to take shape. You can find more details on events online at choba.org/events, and of course don't forget to save the date for the CHOBA carol concert – 16 December – which at the end of this most extraordinary and challenging year, we are delighted to invite you to be part of. I do hope that our paths will cross at an event or reunion soon.

As always, we are so proud of our global community of Old Blues, and we would love to find out more about your achievements since leaving CH. Please

do share your success stories and inspire future generations of CH students and Old Blues. You can email oldblues@christs-hospital.org.uk to let us know what you have been up to.

Finally, my thanks go to all of you – Old Blues, parents, staff and friends – who make such a huge contribution to CH life, especially during what has been another challenging year. You play an important part in supporting the CH mission, and it was truly heartening to see so many of you support the Bright Futures campaign, which was such a success. It has also been wonderful to see many of you continue to volunteer your time and advice to support the school and its students. Your support makes a huge difference.

Ralph Tait (ThB, ThA 86-93)
Chair of the CHOBA Board



Remembering

Christ's Hospital extends sincere condolences to the friends and families of those listed below who have recently passed away.

Anthony Brearley (ColB 47-54)
John Bladon (Mda 36-44)
Peter Blades (MdB 43-49)
Michael Brunt (PeB 53-59)
Diana Bruty (née Stannard) (5s, 3s 44-52)
Michael Bull (BaA 41-50)
John Bulman (CoLA 43-50)
Margaret Cornish (née Kelly) (5s, 7s 57-63)
Joan Cornock (née Keen) (8s 31- 36)
John Cottier (MaA 33-40)
James Day (LaB 38-46)
Peter Dobson (PrepB, ThB 37-44)
Arthur Dyball (LaB 45-54)
Colin Eyles (BaA 53-60)
Simon Gale (PrepB, Mda 51-57)
Roger Harker (PeB 54-61)
Patrick Hodgson (PrepA, MdB 39-46)
(John) Anthony Hurst (PrepA, Mda 48-55)
Andrew Jackson (MaA 58-66)
Olive Knight (née Goodall) (2s 36-42)
Michael Lewis (BaA 41-48)

Jeremy Lock (BaB 47-54)
Stuart Manser (PrepB, ColB 44-50)
Graham Mellstrom (PrepA, Mda 41-48)
(Sebastian) Sam Mercer (PrepA, BaA 39-44)
Robin Miller (MdB 50-56)
David Morris (Mda 39-45)
Catherine Morrish (née Saunders) (3s 35-43)
Gervase Muir LaA (42-48)
Ronald Mullins (LHB, LaA 68-74)
Gwynneth Moyse (5s, 7s 39-46)
John Nelson (ThB 50-56)
(Arthur) Alan Onslow (BaB 36-41)
Carol Payne (née Merrett) (8s 66-71)
Michael Pitcher (ThB, ThA 55-63)
Andrew Porter (ThA 57-64)
Lionel Powell (BaB 46-51)
Paul Rose (PeA 44-51)
William Robinson (Mda 43-52)
(Fabian) Martial Rose (Boga) (ThB 33-39)

Keith Shaw (ThB 49-54)
Jean Stannard (3s 43-49)
Patrick Tonkin (PrepB, PeB 58-65)
Rosemary Whiting (née Esch) (2s 42-50, Hertford Staff 63-64)
Diane Worth (née Haw) (1s 70-76)
Richard Zienko (BaB 55-64)

Old Blue Memories

Find links to full obituaries for Old Blues online at: christs-hospital.org.uk/old-blues/obituaries

If you would like to let us know of an Old Blue's recent death please contact: oldblues@christs-hospital.org.uk

THE OLD BLUE NETWORK

Whether you're an Old Blue, parent or supporter of CH, there are many ways to keep in touch and get involved:

KEEP IN TOUCH

Keep your details up-to-date to receive the latest news, invitations and publications.

Contact:
oldblues@christs-hospital.org.uk



FIND YOUR FRIENDS

Staying in touch with CH friends or tracking down those who you have lost touch with has never been easier. Our Old Blue online directory helps you to connect with fellow Old Blues and share your news.

Visit:
choba.org/directory



JOIN OUR NETWORK

Our Old Blue community stretches across the globe. Join your local section or business group to network with other Old Blues and attend events.

Visit:
choba.org/groups



GET INVOLVED

Come back to CH to give a talk, join our careers network to offer advice to pupils and Old Blues, or help organise events – there are plenty of ways to keep your links with CH.

Contact:
oldblues@christs-hospital.org.uk



MAKE A GIFT

Donations of all sizes offer more young people the life-changing opportunity of a CH education.

Visit:
[christs-hospital.org.uk/
support-us/donate-now](http://christs-hospital.org.uk/support-us/donate-now)

or call: 01403 246570

STAY CONNECTED

T: +44 (0)1403 247619

E: oldblues@christs-hospital.org.uk

W: choba.org | christs-hospital.org.uk

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Christ's Hospital Old Blues' Association



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Christ's Hospital Old Blues



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