

#### FROM SHARKS TO SHARPS

Freelance musician Rebecca Gibson Swift (ColA 87-94) combines performing and teaching. She talks about her marine passion and playing the saxophone.

Rebecca already had two musical instruments under her belt before she joined CH. She played the flute and the piano, which placed her in good stead for the next big challenge: learning the saxophone. This was an unusual choice for a young girl to add to her repertoire at the time.

Faced with amusement from her family, alongside a chorus of "of course you want to be a musician", she rebelled.
Rebecca surprised them all with a new ambition to become a marine biologist, owing to a lifelong love for sharks. It wasn't long though, before Rebecca was drawn back to her natural talent and skill, and established herself in a music career.

Rebecca's time at CH delivered a huge amount of musical variety and opportunities, including the Band; Concert Band; Big Band; Saxophone Quartet and Dixieland Band. She didn't miss a beat to be involved in them all; not to mention the musical–stage performances, such as the production of *Cabaret* that saw her add the clarinet to her collection.

"CH Bandmaster David Elliott started me

off on sax and was hugely influential in the various bands I played in. I had an eclectic mix of musical genres at CH and that has carried through into my career. Gerard McChrystal was my teacher when I was a Dep and Grecian and John Harle was my tutor at music college, they introduced me to the classical repertoire. But I'd have to say Andrew Lloyd Webber was a great inspiration too, as it was my obsession with his musicals as a kid that made me really want to be involved with shows!"

Reflecting on her freelance career, Rebecca describes one of her biggest challenges:

"Being asked to perform at the end of a tour of West Side Story and having to learn how to play really high and fast on clarinet (my third instrument), I said yes. I then frantically rang all the 'proper' clarinettists I knew asking "how the heck do you play a top B?!" That took A LOT of practising but having done at least four different productions of it, that show is now my all–time favourite to play. It's something I would probably drop everything to do in a heartbeat."

#### Why is music important for us?

express the many and complex emotions that humans feel but it is the most international language there is. It has been described by a DJ and music producer I've worked with as "moving air nicely" and on a fundamental level, that's exactly what it is. We make the air around us vibrate with different wavelengths and this in turn makes every cell vibrate bringing out the many varied

It's also been proven that listening to and participating in music improves school children's performance in core subjects like maths, science and English. It teaches listening skills, teamwork, respect, punctuality, creativity...the list goes on!

Imagine a world without music??

#### FIND OUT MORE

Contact:gibsonmusic@mac.com Instagram: rgssax Twitter: RGSsax

# REBECCA'S GUIDE TO BECOMING A FREELANCE MUSICIAN > Practise, practise > Progressing to a music college is not essential but can help with networking > Always ask politely to sit in on shows to gain experience > Learn about industry etiquette Photo credit: @torhillsphotos.

#### **CREATIVES IN THE WILD**

Guy Masterson (Mastroianni) (LHB, PeA 72-79) is an Olivier Award–winning theatre producer, director, actor, writer and globally renowned solo artiste.

#### What inspired you to go into the arts?

I enjoyed participating in house drama and helping out at Christ's Hospital Theatre. I played a funny part in the Peele A House play 'Was He Anyone?', and Duncan Noel Paton insisted that I was in his production of 'Erpingham Camp' in 1979. I was late to the process, but he wrote a part in for me. I was studying sciences and was off to Cardiff University to do biochemistry and chemistry; so I was certainly not thinking of a career in theatre at that time.

I had an uncle who was an actor (Richard Burton) and, in 1981, while I was at Cardiff, he asked me to drive him to his house in Switzerland in an old Mini Cooper S which he had bought. That road trip rekindled an interest in poetry and Shakespeare and, I suppose in acting. He died in 1984, while I was living in Hollywood with an actress girlfriend. She told me that I should have a go... so I did.

#### Did you have any unusual breaks along the way in your career

Yes. I found out early in 1980 that I did not really want to be a biochemist, but I was too scared to drop out of uni. On that road trip with my uncle, he persuaded me to finish my degree and decide later what I wanted to do with my life. I enjoyed a



brief career in hospitality management with Hilton Hotels, but the lure of the greasepaint got the better of me; so I also learned commercial carpentry to support my early acting career.

#### What was your first real 'breakthrough'?

In 1993, I spent nine months at the Theatre Royal Haymarket in London's West End with Robert Lindsay's 'Cyrano', during which I created my breakthrough solo performance of 'Under Milk Wood' by Dylan Thomas. I took this to my first of 27 Edinburgh Festivals in 1994, and have since performed it more than 2,000 times all around the world over 28 years!

I started presenting other artistes in 1996, and have since produced, presented, directed, written or performed in more than 150 productions at the Edinburgh Festival

#### What is the importance of the arts and theatre to you?

Music and the arts in general are vital for young people. Not everyone is suited to academic pursuits and there is far too much emphasis in these subjects. There is a whole world out there which is full of art and music and needs artistes to fill those vacancies. Britain has always been a leader in the arts and so many potential artists are warned away from them before their talents have even been revealed.

#### Have you received strong feedback from your critics?

I make my living in a world where audience and critics' response is swift and clear. You know immediately if your work is effective. As an artist you need to learn how to lead and how to respond to your audience.

#### Did CH have an impact on your career?

CH gave to me a great education, exposure and encouragement in the arts. I am eternally grateful both that the arts were encouraged throughout my time there and to the brilliant companies that I had the opportunity to experience at the theatre while a student.

#### Are there particular people that stand out to you that helped you along your journey?

Alan Wilkinson – my violin teacher. Duncan Noel–Paton – drama teacher, Christopher Nicholson – English teacher, and Bob Hailey – Best Human.

#### What have been your biggest challenges in your career?

A career in the arts is a challenge in itself. Sustaining my self-belief has not always been easy. Although I have managed to support myself and my family over my career, it has not been a "self-perpetuating" one — in that I have always had to create a lot of my own work; so my "success" is not purely artistic. It has also been entrepreneurial. I have been very close to some very big things several times. I have won many awards. . . but awards don't pay bills!

#### What advice would you give to Old Blues wanting to get into this field?

You cannot rely purely on how "talented" you are perceived to be and certainly not how talented you perceive yourself to be.

Talent amounts to less than 33% of what you need. Realistic self-belief, persistence to create your own luck and willingness to



evolve artistically is vital. Oh, and . . . do what you love and do it well, and money will come. Trust it.

#### SOME OF GUY'S NOTABLE WORKS

The Shark is Broken, (West End 2022), 12 Angry Men in 2003 (with Bill Bailey), One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest in 2004 (with Christian Slater & Mackenzie Crook) The Odd Couple in 2005 (with Bill Bailey & Alan Davies).

guymastersonmethod.com theatretoursinternational.com Instagram: GuyMasterson Twitter: @GuyMasterson

SPRING 2022 **3** 

#### **BREATHING LIFE INTO THEATRE**

Kwame Owusu (MaB, GrE 09-16) is keeping himself busy as Resident Assistant Director at the Lyric Hammersmith Theatre, London, while studying his MFA in Theatre Directing at Birkbeck, University of London

# "Sharp. Disturbing. Funny." Review of Pomona, Edinburgh Fringe Festival"

What was your inspiration and what were your childhood aspirations?

I have been inspired by lots of theatre directors, such as Lynette Linton, Ned Bennett, Ellen McDougall, Anthony Simpson–Pike and Bijan Sheibani. These are all directors who are committed to sharing untold narratives in vivid, radical ways. They create visually arresting productions, and their approach to the process is extraordinarily detailed and imaginative. Their work has directly influenced mine — aesthetically, thematically and politically.

It wasn't until I attended the University of Manchester to study English literature and drama that I started directing. I codirected Pomona by Alistair McDowall, which we took to Edinburgh Festival Fringe, receiving 5-star reviews. Across my three years at Manchester, I directed several other productions, and trained as an Assistant Director on the world première of *Utopolis* at Manchester International Festival 2019. At university, I began playwriting, and, in 2020, I was accepted into the Bush Theatre's prestigious Emerging Writers' Group. The play I wrote on this course led to my being signed by Casarotto Ramsay and Associates, one of the world's leading agencies for theatre and film. I graduated with a first-class honours degree and have gone on to study MFA Theatre Directing at Birkbeck, University of London. I am currently the Resident Assistant Director at the Lyric Hammersmith Theatre.

#### Why are the arts important for us?

4 THE OLD BLUE

The arts are incredibly important because they are one of the most powerful ways in which we can explore what it means to be human. I think that the arts can shape the narrative we tell ourselves of who we are as a nation, as a society,

and as a community. The arts keep us connected, expand our imagination, shape our perspectives and champion underrepresented voices. The arts are important because, at their heart, they are a shared act of storytelling between artists and audiences that can be used to radically interrogate our past and present, and collectively imagine possible futures.

#### What impact has CH had on your career?

CH has had a massive impact on my career. I performed in the yearly production, from Second Form up, and having the opportunity to be part of theatre with such incredible resources gave me the foundation to continue that journey post-CH. I had a range of opportunities to perform musically, being a member of various choirs. My writing and creativity were nurtured not only academically, but through extra-curricular activities such as having my poetry published in The Blue, and winning both the Poetry by Heart competition and two annual photography competitions. I also had lots of opportunities to strengthen my leadership skills at CH, being a Monitor, President of the Debating Society, Chairman of the Student Council, Deputy House Captain, a Member of the Model United Nations and co-running the Gospel Choir, among other activities, all of which gave me a range of skills which are now integral to my career. I truly believe that the combination of fantastic academic and creative opportunities is what makes CH

#### What challenges have you faced?

One of the biggest challenges has been the impact of the pandemic. The creative arts have always been a precarious sector with their reliance on public attendance and funding. But Covid–19 continues to pose a real threat to the financial sustainability of arts organisations, thus making potential routes and opportunities fewer in number

#### A day in the life of an Assistant Director

I arrive at the building for rehearsals at 10am, rehearsing until 6pm, building characters, and staging the scenes etc. I'm rehearsing a new play; so the writer is in the room, redrafting as we go. I may have a working lunch with the Literary Associate, planning next steps for the development of new writers. Come evening, I run acting classes, with ten students on the Lyric's actor training programme. If I'm not running that class, I watch the evening's performance and give notes to the actors. I get home and read script submissions and prepare for the next day of rehearsals!



#### PIERS MAXIM COMES FULL CIRCLE

Old Blue musician Piers Maxim (LHB, PeA 81-87) has gone full circle starting in church music, moving on to conducting choirs and operas before returning to what feels like home in church, playing the organ again.



Describe your profession in one sentence.

I'm an all-rounder musician who for many years specialised in conducting choirs and opera choruses, and has now returned to Church Music, where it all started, to concentrate on organ playing and composition.

#### What were your childhood aspirations?

I had been a chorister at St Paul's Cathedral, in London, before coming to CH as a third Form squit; so I had been living and breathing music for five years, and performing in the cathedral's daily services to an extremely high standard. These standards were instilled in us by our legendary conductor, Barry Rose, who has remained an absolute inspiration to me as a choral conductor, but also as a musician.

In the cathedral, as you may imagine, there were quite a number of organists, but there was one whose recordings I still seek out – John Scott. I used to be the page turner for the organ voluntaries, and so would rush upstairs to the organ loft, while the choir were having their final vestry prayer, and turn pages for whoever was playing, Christopher Dearnley, the Cathedral Organist, or John Scott or one of the many organ scholars. I feel I learned a great deal there, even though I was not to start organ lessons until I arrived at CH. Singing and composition were very important to me from this early age, too, and I was composing music

from around the age of seven, thinking that it was simply a normal thing to do, didn't everyone compose music?!

I haven't even mentioned my last service at St Paul's – I arrived at LHB to hear all the boys talking about that wedding they had watched on the 29th July 1981... Needless to say, it was an experience I have never forgotten!

#### How did being a pupil at CH help you get where you are?

Having been in an exclusively musical surrounding at St Paul's, it was important, I now realise, that I met "normal" people – is anyone who has been to CH and worn a Housey coat normal? But one of the many excellent aspects of CH is that it was a great leveller, too. I believe that there were some children of wealthier families at the school in my time, but we never knew who they were. I believe that this exposure to a broad spectrum of people and their skills, at this crucial and formative stage, has allowed me to mix with people of all backgrounds and abilities with some ease. As a musician and performer, I think this is of paramount importance.

Particularly important was that it was at CH that I started learning the organ. The School was blessed with four organs, on which we could practise. The splendid 5-Manual (keyboards) Chapel organ was such an excellent instrument for learning how to deal with large instruments, such as I now face when playing in any of the local cathedrals. However, I probably earned to play with a better technique on the 3-Manual William Hill & Sons instrument in Big School, because this instrument demanded more correct finger work and attention to detail, whereas you could get away with much more on the more modern Chapel organ However, I will never forget the experience of playing C. S. Lang's famous Tuba Tune in Chapel (CH Director of Music 1929–45), in which you can play the tune on the West End division in the Gallery, but had to play it a split second before your other hand which played the accompaniment on the divisions in the East End, above the altar, this, to counteract the time delay of the West End pipes' speech. I am still unlearning this technique when I play this piece!

My parents were actors; so I was often backstage in the theatre when my mum was touring. However, it is the experiences I had in CH's theatre that have meant that I have always felt comfortable working in opera houses and theatres around the world. I took part in plays at CH (Ross by Terrance Rattigan; Love's Labours Lost by Shakespeare: Tamburlaine by Marlowe) but also sang in Lucia di Lammermoor/Donizetti, conducted by the School's doctor, Dr Hoskins, as well as playing rehearsal piano for Oliver, Jungle Book and Bodywork. This certainly went some way to preparing me for a life often spent in the theatre.

#### What advice would you give to Old Blues wanting to get into this field?

If anyone wants to get into the Music biz as a performer, whether classical, church or pop, you have to put in the hours to improve your abilities. At CH, I would often spend four hours practising at the Chapel organ on a Sunday.

I would certainly suggest contacting helpful people already in the business, as they are often the ones who can open doors. It's extraordinary the number of times that I have been in touch with someone, out of the blue usually, and they have then said, "Ah, that's perfect timing – I need..."

So, my main advice, and this goes for everything in life – don't wait to do it, just do it now!

Find out more about Piers Maxim here: www.piersmaxim.webs.com

SPRING 2022 **5** 

Photo credit: Dujonna Gift

The Old Blue - Spring 2022, FM indd 4-5

#### IN MEMORY OF **CATHERINE ENNIS** (HIGHAM 6s 65-71)

It was not just the CH community who mourned her death on Christmas Eve

2020, but the organ world at large; for Cathy Ennis was an internationally renowned organist, in what has been a traditionally male-dominated profession.

Cathy was an organ girl at Hertford, taught the organ at Horsham and was the Old Blue organist at a recital on the Willis Organ (now in Dining Hall) on 19 June 1988, after the organ had settled into the Music Library at Horsham, having travelled from the School Hall in

She was Assistant Organist of Christ Church, Oxford (the first woman to be appointed in this post), and later Director of Music of St Lawrence Jewry next Guildhall for 35 years. Cathy was also a President of the Royal College of Organists.

On her death after a battle with cancer. Hertford girls remembered her as "a beautiful and courageous person" with "such talent".



Hertford airls remembered her as "a beautiful and courageous person" with "such talent"

6 THE OLD BLUE

#### **PULLING OUT ALL** THE STOPS

As CH's beloved Chapel organ undergoes a full restoration, Old Blues and others have a unique opportunity to play a part in its future.

#### Urgent need for repair

After more than 90 years' service, with only one partial restoration in 1981, the Chapel organ has deteriorated rapidly in recent years. By 2021, multiple air leaks and other faults had severely compromised the sound and overall performance of the organ, and it was clear that a full restoration was required.

Working with expert organ consultant Dr William McVicker, CH selected the accomplished team at Mander Organ Builders to undertake the restoration of this treasured instrument. The work will be both sympathetic to the original 1930s concept and forward-thinking to stand the test of time. The juxtaposition will provide CH with an instrument that is fit to provide a robust but romantic organ, as it was in its original sense, for generations of pupils to come.

Due for completion in April 2023, the restoration will focus on four areas. The first of these is the organ's tone quality, projection and expression. Owing to the number of pipes in the

chambers, projection through the Chapel is not optimal. The Great and Swell choruses will be rebalanced with new pipework and revoicing which will enable the organ to support congregational singing. The Swell, Solo and Choir boxes will also be replaced giving a much-needed makeover, while staying respectful to the beautiful 1930's tonal and visual aesthetic

The winding system, bellows and soundboards will be completely replaced, removing the ineffective trunking that was updated in 1981. The blower system will be fully refurbished, and the West blower chamber will be fireproofed for safeguarding as this sits in the original wooden roof of the Chapel. New soundboards and parts will be heat tolerant and will handle temperature and humidity fluctuations more efficiently than ever before.

The third focus is the meticulous cleaning of every part, to address the build-up of dust and dirt over decades. This will include repairs to several organ pipes to produce the



best sound moving forward. All but the largest pipes, which will be restored on site, have been attentively transported to Manders' workshop in Canterbury for some much-needed tender loving care.

Some Old Blues will recall that there are two large gold angels that sit high above the pipes overlooking the Chapel. These will be given a full regilding so they may continue to watch over with renewed brightness in their wings. Finally, the console with all its stops and buttons will be completely rewired and upgraded with new modern playing aids.

#### Sponsor a pipe

The restoration of the Chapel organ is a major undertaking requiring £1 million in funding. We hope that Old Blues and others will recognise the central importance of the organ and so wish to become involved in this vital project. Whether you have memories of being in Chapel listening to or singing along to the organ, have played the organ vourself or wish to ensure that CH and its pupils continue to benefit from this magnificent instrument there is a unique opportunity to play your part.

CH's Sponsor a Pipe initiative enables supporters to make their mark in CH's wonderful history through sponsoring individual organ pipes. Individuals can choose to support one or more pipes, with sponsorship levels ranging from

£100 for a 2ft pipe (such as a piccolo) and £500 for a 4ft pipe (such as an octave or lieblich) to £5.000 for one of the vast 32ft pipes (such as a diapson) and £20,000 for the famous tuba magna. All those contributing to the fundraising campaign will be acknowledged through a special commemorative area of the CH website. Those contributing £5,000 or more will be acknowledged on a plaque in Chapel.

You can support this vital project through one of the following methods







#### **HOW TO DONATE**

following methods:

You can support this vital campaign by the

#### **POST**

Donate by returning the donation form that accompanied this magazine

#### ONLINE

Donate online by visiting: www.christs-hospital.org.uk/ support-us/chapel-organ-appeal/

#### PHONE

Call us today to make a donation over the phone on: 01403 246570



SPRING 2022 **7** 

The Old Blue - Spring 2022 EM.indd 6-7 29/03/2022 08:40:25

#### AWARD WINNING BOOK DESIGNS

Victoria Forrest (ColA 89-96) is a book designer. Since gaining her MA at the Royal College of Art, Victoria has become an award winning designer with her latest book, and lots more to come.



Simply, I design books. The whole book, from conception to completion: the cover designs and the page layout; I choose the paper, the binding, the cloth, and I watch it print. My books always contain complex subjects and highly visual layouts, usually non-fiction, documenting or in response to social

#### What inspired you to be in this industry?

issues, such as documentary photography.

My childhood aspiration was always to be a graphic designer, even before I chose design and communication as a GCSE. Graphic design is a profession that's both creative and practical. There's an assumption you will always be able to earn a good wage because graphic design is vital for mass communication. There are many different types of design, from advertising to product design, moving image to the oldest of them all (and for me the most rewarding), print. Print design covers poster, leaflet, newspaper, magazine, book design and more. It's the art form that enables you to read this article. It is vital for our education and our awareness of the world around us. I find it particularly satisfying. There's nothing quite like holding a copy of a new book, flicking through pages, and smelling the ink fresh off the press.

#### What has made you so passionate about

Recently, I worked out why I love designing books so much. I think it's because I'm dyslexic. I was diagnosed while doing my MA at the Royal College of Art (RCA) in communication art and design: 80% of RCA students are dyslexic. It's common in the creative industries and it's also a characteristic that is protected under the Equalities Act; so it's considered a

disability. It's only recently that I've come to terms with the idea that I have a legally defined disability. I don't see it as that, though. I see the world differently, more creatively, and dyslexia is part of the reason why I love my work.

People with dyslexia find it harder to read than most people, we need more concentration and we are easily distracted. Had I been educated at home, it's possible I might not have been as successful academically as I was at CH. I gained my academic buttons and left CH with a Certificate of Excellence, which means that I came in the top three in the country in my design A-Level.

#### Were there any interesting sidesteps along the way in your career?

Usually, I design non-fiction art and photography books, often showcasing important and hard-hitting social issues. But after my son was born, I discovered AR (augmented reality) and sign language and discovered a way to combine the two.

For those of you who aren't familiar with AR, it is an immersive experience through a digital device, you can enter a new world with AR, play, learn, interact and

For those of you who aren't familiar with babies, there is a period in a child's life when the complexity of their thoughts is more advanced than their ability to express themselves through speech. This results in a period in a hearing child's life called the "Terrible Twos" when small children are often frustrated. It was out of this that the the prototype for Where is the Bird?, the first AR book to inspire the use of BSL (British Sign Language) in ALL families, deaf or hearing, was launched.

#### What feedback have your readers shared with you?

Responses to Where is the Bird? have been amazing. There is something immensely satisfying about creating something that delights people. Kids of all ages, big and small, are practising newly learnt signs within minutes. Parents who use signs regularly with their children have told me how sign language has helped them understand their children before they were able to speak in a wide range of situations.

The book has also been nominated for and won many awards including: D&AD, The Bookseller Futurebook, The Bookseller Small Press of the Year, The Great British Entrepreneur of the Year Award for the Creative Industries, National Technology Award for Best AR/VR Product. I am delighted to have just been awarded Innovate UK's Women in Innovation Award.

#### What have been your biggest challenges in your career?

I think the biggest challenges in my career have been access to finance, misogyny and self-belief. It's changing now, but it's still much easier for men to advance their careers than women and that's frustrating. Access to finance is an obvious problem for some who went to CH, but it's helpful to remember that wealth is not defined by

#### How do you manage being a mum and business and what's next?

Projects that I work on and events in my life are symbiotic. This means that it is vital I look after my mental health. I find my most creative moments arrive in the times when I let my mind wander and allow new connections to be made: travel, explore, play, this all goes into my subconscious and comes out in my creativity. I went to Thailand for a break just before Christmas and discovered that divers also use sign language. So I stayed out there learning to dive and researching underwater signs. My next book will be called Where are the Fish? It will use AR to inspire children and parents to play underwater and learn about marine ecosystems. I would never have found this if I had stayed at home.



by following her Instagram @vika.books

#### HOBBY TURNED EXCELLING CAREER

By day, Genevieve Cogman (1s, BaB 83-90) is a clinical coder for the NHS. By night, she is an esteemed author with an ever-growing library - an invisible library at that.

#### What was your inspiration in this field and what were your childhood aspirations?

I've been inspired by multiple writers: (Tolkien, Conan Doyle, Barbara Hambly, Diana Wynne Jones, Mary Renault, Charles Stross, Lois Mcmaster Bujold, Terry Pratchett and hundreds more). I didn't, however, have any real childhood aspirations in the field. I was thinking of a career in mathematics and/or statistics. I did daydream a lot, though!

#### Were there any interesting sidesteps along the way in your career?

I took a BSc in mathematics with statistics and an MSc in statistics with medical applications, but I was unable to find a iob: everywhere wanted someone with experience. I ended up working in the NHS doing data analysis, then moved sideways into clinical coding, first at my local hospital, then on the national team. I'd been writing fanfiction and fan work for role-playing games in my spare time, and I ended up producing some professional role-playing writing (for the In Nomine, GURPS and Exalted rpg lines).

I'd also moved from writing fanfiction to writing original work, and a friend of mine who was already published was kind enough to introduce me to her agent.

After some revisions of my writing, the agent took me on as a client. Since then, I've continued with my day job as a clinical coder, and written fiction in my spare time, with eight books published so far and three more under contract.

#### What impact has CH had on your career?

Christ's Hospital was a wonderful school. I don't know what direction I might have taken in my life if I hadn't gone to it, but it definitely helped me build a solid foundation, study subjects which I might not have studied elsewhere, and learn good working habits.

#### Are there particular people that stand out to you that helped you along your journey?

One person at CH whom I remember very fondly was Mrs Jeffers, the School Librarian. I was a pupil librarian myself at the time (I'm not sure what the current term is) and the Library was one of my favourite haunts.

#### What have been your biggest challenges in your career?

Handling both my day job and my writing without letting either suffer and without missing deadlines or doing a poor job at

#### What advice would you give to Old Blues wanting to get into this field?

It's difficult to give professional advice here, as the field of writing fiction keeps evolving; so I'll just offer some personal advice. Read a lot (to expand your personal range, to find new perspectives, and because you enjoy it) and write a lot (to practise and to find your voice). Also, be prepared to accept editing — it will happen, however great your work may be.

Tell us, how do you write a book?

Every author's process is different some have heavy detailed outlines, others have minimal ones. I'm somewhere in between, usually starting with a moderate outline of several pages, and I tend to start at the beginning and work through to the end before going back to edit, though I may make notes of points that need fixing or improving if I notice them mid-work. I may also end up diverting from the outline if I get a better idea, or if something planned in the outline doesn't work



**About** The Invisible Library

Irene is a professional spy for the mysterious Library, which harvests fiction from different realities. Along with her enigmatic assistant Kai, she's posted to an alternative London. Their mission - to retrieve a dangerous book. But when they arrive, it's already been stolen.

For more information visit:

librarian@grcogman.com.

www.grcogman.com

GenevieveCogman

8 THE OLD BLUE

The Old Blue - Spring 2022 EM.indd 8-9 29/03/2022 08:40:28

#### **OUTREACH EXPANDS**

As inequality in the UK continues to worsen, CH's marketing team is helping to open our arms wider than ever before.

#### Identifying need

A key focus for the work of the CH marketing department is to establish and build relationships with primary school head teachers. The areas of the country we target are those which have been identified by the Government as having particularly low social mobility prospects for children from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Our aim is to identify the most suitable children for entry to CH on one of our means-tested bursary places.

We visit primary schools, meeting head teachers, key staff, pupils and their families. These groups will then come to CH, and/or a team from CH will attend events at their schools or in their local areas. At many of these schools, neither

the school nor their families would ever have thought of sending a child to an independent school, let alone to a boarding school. Our work involves breaking down barriers and preconceived ideas about independent boarding schools. We help families to see beyond the magnificent CH buildings and the Tudor uniform and explain the lifechanging opportunities available here.

Projects we are working on for the current academic year complement the recent work we have been doing and look to strengthen the relationships we have in these specific areas of the country, while building new relationships and links. In May, the CH Band will be taking part in the Brighton children's parade; we have Maths Challenges planned in London, Horsham and Sheffield; we will be visiting primary schools in Sussex, Kent, Essex,

London and Sheffield; and look forward to welcoming primary schools to CH for taster days and a Solving Crime with Science Day during the summer term.

> We help families to see beyond the magnificent CH buildings and the Tudor uniform and to explain the life-changing opportunities available



#### Do you know a child who could benefit from a boarding bursary at Christ's Hospital?

Please help us to spread the word on our fee-assisted places by telling your friends, families, work colleagues and neighbours. Current Year 5 pupils who are considering options for secondary education in September 2023 are invited to our Open Morning on Saturday 30 April. All candidates applying for a place will be assessed on their potential, both academically and across the broader curriculum.



#### April Open Morning – Saturday 30 April 2022

You can book a place at the next open morning here: www.christs-hospital.org.uk/admissions/book-an-open-morning

Our termly Open Mornings are ideal opportunities for interested families to visit the School – everyone who visits is guaranteed a very warm welcome and will be given the opportunity of a full tour of the School plus the chance to meet our staff and pupils.



Email us with questions about 2023 entry and our bursary places at: hello@christs-hospital.org.uk

The closing date for applications for September 2023 entry into Year 7 is Friday 16 September 2022.

The Old Blue - Spring 2022 EM.indd 10-11 29/03/2022 08:40:29

#### ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY VISIT



We were honoured to host the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Reverend and Right Honourable Justin Welby, on 4

Archbishop Welby took time out from his busy schedule to come to CH and speak to our pupils. He had lunch with our team of 19 Monitors, including the Senior Grecian and Second Monitor. This was followed by Band Parade, which the Archbishop seemed to thoroughly enjoy.

The Archbishop then held two hourlong sessions in Chapel, one for junior pupils and one for senior pupils. He had previously requested that pupils prepare questions to ask him during these sessions; nothing was off limit and there were some very interesting and challenging questions posed by our pupils, with equally interesting and thought-provoking answers given by Archbishop Welby. Various school

choirs performed for the Archbishop, leaving him visibly moved with the quality of their singing.

Following the Chapel sessions, Emily Jeffery of BBC Radio Sussex interviewed the Archbishop on-site as well as four of our Monitors, Alex, Izzy, Keir and Daisy. Excerpts from their interviews were aired on BBC Radio Sussex's Sunday morning show on 6 March; the pupils spoke eloquently about the impression the Archbishop had made on them during his visit to Christ's Hospital. They spoke about how much they appreciated his willingness to answer their every question, as well as to share details of his own life - including the tragic loss of his baby daughter.

His visit and words of wisdom and advice will no doubt stay in our pupils' memories for years to come.



WHAT IS GIVING TUESDAY?

Giving Tuesday is a global day focused on charitable giving. On Tuesday 30 November, the CH community came together to celebrate this special day, and once again our community did not disappoint.

This year, we chose to raise funds for the Additional Costs Fund to support those in exceptional financial need. This helps towards travel costs, house funds, school trips, sports uniform and other basic additional costs that families otherwise may not be able to afford.

Thank you to all the Old Blues, parents, and friends who made Giving Tuesday a tremendous success. We are delighted to let you know that more than 130 of our incredible CH community came together to support the Additional Costs Fund.

Your generosity means that CH can help more of our most disadvantaged pupils and their families, who sometimes need extra help to cover additional costs.

To all our donors, thank you. We really couldn't have done this without you. Thank you again from everyone at CH!

#### DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Giving Tuesday 2022 with take place on Tuesday 29 November 2022. Keep an eye out closer to the time to find out what this year's fundraising focus will be.



Thank you to all the Old Blues, parents and friends who donated, you made this Giving Tuesday incredible! You raised £42,777!





#### Find out how Tom and Bashar are enjoying life at Christ's Hospital

Tom – joined in September 2017

> Our first Blue Fund pupil Tom, reflects on his time at

"When I first found out that I had gained a place at CH, I was so excited to come here. I was ready to try new things; now that I have settled into CH life.

I am used to the busy boarding life and am enjoying how unique each day here is. I enjoy being with my friends in house and I love how the seniors and juniors interact and get along with each other so well.

One of the highlights of my time at CH so far was playing O'Dreary in Bugsy Malone. It was my first time acting on a stage; so it was very exciting. I have also enjoyed the football and cricket fixtures that we have against other schools. Now, as a senior, I have been doing CCF Army as an active and I went on the summer camp last year. The camp was brilliant and I loved taking part in all the activities especially survival techniques! "For me, events like house singing, house drama, sports matches and music performances make CH very special."

Bashar – joined in September 2019

> Bashar updates us on how he has settled in and what he is enjoying the most at CH.

"When I found out I had gained a place at CH. I was filled with joy, especially after the months of studying. Despite the joy, I had never

been away from home let alone my family, but I managed to settle in after a matter of days with the help of the family-like community Lamb B house has crafted. My time so far has been filled with new opportunities and experiences.

There are a lot of things that I have enjoyed during my time at CH such as playing rugby and my first away football fixture. It was a joy travelling to another school and representing CH and leaving with a win, and a goal was a cherry on top. I also started swimming at the leisure centre, and learning Mandarin!"

"My time so far has been filled with new opportunities and experiences" Bashar

BLUE FUND OVER HALF WAY TO SUPPORTING A SIXTH BLUE FUND PUPIL

The Blue Fund invites donors to join forces and, in partnership, fund a full sevenyear education and boarding at Christ's Hospital, for children in need. 100% of all donations to the Blue Fund directly support a child at CH.

We are aiming to raise £231,000 to enable a sixth Blue Fund pupil to join Christ's Hospital. So far we have raised more than £140.000.

We are enormously grateful to those who have already contributed to this target, whether as a one-off or monthly gift.

We currently have five Blue Fund pupils, our most recent BF pupil, Kyrea, joined CH in September 2021.

Join the Blue Fund and transform the life of a young person. Scan the QR code using your mobile to make a donation

Donate online, or complete the enclosed form to donate by post:

www.christs-hospital.org.uk/support-us/ donate-now/



The Old Blue - Spring 2022 EM.indd 12-13 29/03/2022 08:40:37

#### THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE

Christ's Hospital is honoured to have Her Majesty The Queen as its Patron. In 2022 we celebrate her extraordinary life and reign through the Platinum Jubilee.

As the longest-serving British monarch, The Queen is for more than 85% of the British population the only monarch we have ever known. She has advised 14 Prime Ministers, met 13 US Presidents and stood with our country through many a crisis with dignity, grace and an impeccable, colourful wardrobe.

On Sunday 6 February, she became part of the elite platinum club, joining Louis XIV of France, Johann II of Liechtenstein and King Bhumibol of Thailand. Queen Victoria – another great supporter of CH – came close too, with an impressive 63 years on the throne. Although the anniversary of The Queen's accession falls in February, the celebrations will be taking place in the summer, in line with her official birthday.

#### The Queen's visit to CH

It was almost 19 years ago, on a bright Friday in October 2003, that The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh visited Christ's Hospital. Other members of the Royal Family were present too, with the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester attending - the Duke being the School's President. They were received by Her Majesty's Vice Lord-Lieutenant of West Sussex (Colonel Sir Brian Barttelot), the High Sherriff (Major Mark Scrase-Dickins) and the School's Treasurer (David Farrington).

This very special visit to CH was a celebration of 450 years since Edward VI founded the school: a Religious, Royal and Ancient Foundation, by Royal Charter. The party enjoyed Band Parade and spent time speaking with pupils, staff and parents. The Queen then unveiled a commemorative stone at the library, now the Mellstrom Centre.



a celebration of 450 vears since Edward VI founded the school; a Religious, Royal and Ancient Foundation, by Royal Charter in 1553

**ROYAL INVOLVEMENT OVER THE YEARS** 

#### Platinum Jubilee Celebrations at CH

There will be many events and activities celebrating The Queen's Platinum Jubilee across the UK, the Commonwealth and beyond in the months leading up to the special extended bank-holiday from Thursday 2 to Sunday 5 June 2022.

Events include a magnificent show in May, All The Queen's Horses and all The Queen's Men, with more than 500 horses and 1,000 performers taking us on a journey through history from Elizabeth I to the present day, and a Service of Thanksgiving for The Queen's reign at St Paul's Cathedral at the start of June.

We hope that as many Old Blues as possible will come together at CH on Saturday 21 May for a specially themed Platinum Jubilee Old Blues Day. It will be a wonderful way to celebrate our Patron's tireless work, the School's special association with the monarch, while catching up with friends and finding out what has been happening at CH. More details and a registration form can be found on page 17.



Edward, Prince of Wales, visit to CH in 1921





This engraving, Her Majesty at Christ's Hospital, depicts Queen Victoria during her visit to Christ's Hospital

#### Timeline of our royal association

1673

Charter from Charles II for the

1845

Supper at CH

1921

visited and met with

1937

1953

Loyal Address to Queen

#### 1553

the Royal Charter

1837

Frederick Gifford Nash welcomes Queen

1854

1897

Stone is laid

1929

Science building

1953

Johnston welcomed Queen Elizabeth II on behalf of the quatercentenary celebrations are held

2003

Visit to the School by its Patron, Her Majesty the Queen, accompanied by the Duke of

14 THE OLD BLUE SPRING 2022 15

#### **EVENTS**

With restrictions easing, we are delighted to have been able to introduce more events to the calendar. Here are just some of the highlights since the last edition.











Barnes A octogenarians met for an annual event that has been happening for 25 years!



#### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

#### Old Blue Events

The Friends of Christ's Hospital

(FCH) held a Founder's Day Dinner in New York in October

#### 60 Years On Reunion

Wednesday 27 April 11am to 4pm for leavers of 1960, 1961 and 1962 at Christ's Hospital.

Sat 21 May 10am to 4pm for all Old Blues and their families at Christ's Hospital.

Sat 21 May 12.45 to 3pm A platinum Jubilee 'High Tea' as part of Old Blues Day for all Hertford girls.

#### Old Blue Tours

Various dates - Bookable escorted site visits and afternoon tea during term time for Old Blues.

#### **Summer Visits**

Sat 20 August - Details to be released soon

#### **CH Heritage Day**

Fri 28 October - Details to be released soon

#### Old Blue Virtual Live Talks

The videos from our second series of Virtual Live Old Blue talks, held during November, are now available online. Our thanks go to our Old Blue speakers Tim Vincent, Tim Benjamin, Jennifer Bates and

Nigel Ten Fleming.



If you missed out these are all available on demand here:

shorturl.at/ingAC

### OLD BLUES DAY – Saturday 21 May Celebrating the Platinum Jubilee

#### FEATURED ACTIVITIES THROUGHOUT THE DAY INCLUDE:

Royal raffle and various stalls Open seating in Dining Hall CH Museum Giant Lawn Games Queen of Hearts Croquet Stately Snack Van Ice Cream Van Avenue Boarding House Visits Platinum Pizza van Princess Grace Photobooth Chapel Service Head Teacher's welcome

Picnicking Band Parade Jubilee Picnic Lunch\* Hertford Reunion **CH Sports fixtures** Art School visit Plant a Tree for the Jubilee Regal Ramble to Sharpenhurst\* Fireside chat – Matthew Oates Majestic Memories at the Museum



#### \*ADVANCED BOOKINGS ARE REQUIRED FOR THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES\*:

#### Regal Ramble to Sharpenhurst (afternoon)

Join CH teacher Christy Hawkins in summiting Sharpenhurst Hill where the 2020 Grecians Gift of a Peace Pole, featuring the words "May Peace Prevail on Earth", is planted. The walk takes approx.1hr 45, part of which is uphill through Shelley's Wood. (Limited availability)

#### Jubilee Picnic Lunch

Enjoy a picnic lunch fit for a Queen in Court Room, where we will also be showing some Royal Highlights. Example lunch includes sandwiches, crisps, sausage rolls, mini cakes and a cold drink. (Limited availability)

\*These will be allocated on a ticketed first-come, first-served basis and tickets MUST be presented on the day, If you do not receive tickets by post within 10 working days of returning your form, this unfortunately indicates the activity has become fully booked – in the case of lunch payments no money will be taken and cheques will be returned. Food and drink will also be available to purchase from our Stately Snack stall, Platinum Pizza vendor and illustrious ice-cream van on the day

#### Old Blues Day Registration Form

Please return this form to the CHOBA office to register your place and to book for lunch or the ramble

Ticket Type	Quantity	NameAddress							
Adult (free)	, \\	Address.			/ 🥠				
Child (free)	\\ \'\/	Email			<u> </u>	)			
Regal Ramble (free)	-/_	Phone N	0						
Lunch Booking*			Price	Quantity		C			
Sandwich Buffet Lunch: 12.45 –14:00			£10	$\Lambda_{-}/$		C			
Dietary requirementsI enclose a cheque made pay	yable to Christ's Hospital for	r <b>£</b>				O > >			
Card Number/	//		. Expiry	Date/	cc	×			
Online bookings and a full pro Please note: We may take pho		a profession	nal photo				sed on		

our website or social media pages or for CHOBA publicity. When you book onto a CHOBA event, we will automatically include your name and CH dates on an online attendee list. Full Ts&Cs can be found on the Old Blues' section of the CH website. CHOBA, The Counting House, Christ's Hospital, West Sussex RH13 0YP



SPRING 2022 17

16 THE OLD BLUE

The Old Blue - Spring 2022 EM.indd 16-17 29/03/2022 08:40:45

#### **OLD BLUES IN PRINT**

#### 1. John Lough (LHA, MdA 75–82) Germany's Russia Problem

John is an Associate Fellow of the Russia and Eurasia Programme at Chatham House, and a consultant with Highgate, a London-based advisory firm. He was the first NATO official to be based in Moscow. John has recently had published his book, *Germany's Russia Problem*, which explains the scale of the challenge facing Germany in managing relations with a changing Russia.

#### 2. Robert Fabbri (MaB, MdB, PeA 72–79) Alexander's Legacy

The third instalment in Robert's bloody and brutal new series of *Alexander's Legacy* books was released on 6 January. *An Empty Throne* is set after the death of Alexander the Great. Who will win the fight to control the largest empire the world has ever seen? Let the battles begin...

#### 3. Chris Simms (LHA, PeA 81–88) Many Deadly Returns

Chris is part of perhaps the UK's longest-standing collective of crime writers: Murder Squad. They recently celebrated their 21st birthday with this collection of 21 short stories. When the group formed back in 2000, they were mid-list authors keen to attract new readers. Since then, they have gone on to receive numerous awards and prizes.

#### 4. Vernon Joynson (PrepB, ThA 63-71) The Britpop Bible

2022 is 30 years since the birth of what became known as Britpop. This book is a timely guide to many of the significant artists and recordings of the genre and quite a few less well known ones as well.

#### 5. Tobias Wilkinson (PeA 69-76) The Last Hussar

The Last Hussar records the daily lives of soldiers in the last year of the British Army's life in Germany.

#### 6. Philip Berry MBChB, MD, FRCP (MdA, MdB 83–90) Necessary Scars

Necessary Scars - A Doctor's Life in Error. The book looks at how medicine works and how medical error can happen. It offers a uniquely honest perspective on the social implications of medical errors.



#### TIME AT THE BAR

Daniel Lett (PeA 28-33) was called to the Bar by Middle Temple 17 years after he left Christ's Hospital. In 1979, having spent the majority of his life in the Caribbean, he contacted the School regarding his intention to leave a bequest, to allow Old Blues to follow a career at the Bar. Mr Lett died in 2004, and his bequest created an endowment as well as a smaller restricted fund.

Today, Old Blues can request assistance through this fund for furthering their studies to become a barrister.

Nana Afua Sarfo-Bonsu (LHA, GrE 11-18) told us how the Daniel Lett Scholarship Fund has assisted her since leaving Christ's Hospital.

"As you can imagine, the process of becoming a barrister seemed daunting, to say the least, to 17-year-old me, but after finding out about the Fund and how it was able to offer support at each and every stage of the process, I felt a huge sense of relief. The Daniel Lett Fund has been able to support me across the various years of my degrees and even before I left CH, by offering travel reimbursements for prospective student days and access schemes at different universities. Attending such programmes is what helped me to decide that Oxford would be the right university for my undergraduate degree. Having graduated and now completing the GDL course at The City Law School, I have had the good fortune of not having to worry about my finances because of the level of support that the Fund provides."

The Old Blue - Spring 2022 EM.indd 18-19

#### **SHOP**



CH shield cufflinks, lapel pins, greetings cards, keychains, ties and water bottles. Limited exclusive items are available to purchase such as silverware dating back to 1844 that was acquired for the public supper with Queen Victoria and Prince Albert in March 1845.

Shop here portal.christs-hospital.org.uk/ portal/public/shop/

#### SHARE YOUR NEWS TODAY!

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

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE CHOBA BOARD

As we settle into this new year, I think I speak for most of us when I say we have waited with bated breath, but it does truly feel like we are seeing both light and warmth at the end of this long pandemic tunnel as we gradually enjoy the longer

tunnel as we gradually enjoy the longer and warmer spring days. This year brings much hope, and I look forward to returning to enjoying the simple things that so many have gone without.

The Christ's Hospital Old Blues Association (CHOBA) keeps this community, which we have all learned to place more value on than ever before, alive for us. Regardless of age, gender, stage in life, it serves a strong purpose to support the entire Old Blue community. We value action and as you will see in this issue the community is very much active with Old Blues enjoying lifelong connections, sharing expertise, mentoring, and enjoying reunions and events. If you are not already signed up, please visit the CHOBA website at, choba.org where you can find out more information such as the upcoming and much anticipated Platinum Jubilee themed Old Blues Day this summer. I hope this issue might rekindle or spark memories for some of you, ignite a warm glow in your heart, or inspire you to try

something you have never done before after reading the stories of some of our talented Old Blues. As always, we are an immensely proud community of Old Blues that stretches across the world. We are always eager to learn about your achievements since leaving CH and launching into adult life. You will see our fascinating feature on the Chapel Organ fundraising campaign, and the incredible tales of some of our creative Old Blues who have progressed in either music or the arts in this issue.

Please continue to share your success stories and inspire future generations of CH students and Old Blues, no story is too small. You can email oldblues@ christs-hospital.org.uk to let us know what you have been up to, how life has changed or even taken an unusual turn of events!

Before I sign off, I would like to share my thanks to Old Blues, parents, staff and friends, who make such a huge ongoing contribution to CH life. You play a vital part in supporting the CH mission, and it was truly heartening to see so many of you support the Giving Tuesday campaign and the ongoing Blue Fund campaign last year, which was such a great success

and with your help was able to support a fifth pupil. I hope that you will continue to support us this year.

Every single bit of your help truly does transform lives, and for that we are enormously grateful.

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.

Lynn Ammerer-Ford 5s 70-77 Julia Andrew (née Page) 5s, 6s 62-70 Brian Baker BaB 37-45 Robert Betson LaA 46-53 Ian Bingham-Hall LaB 36-42 Thomas Bradbury LaA 34-39 Gordon Bridger ColB 41-50 Alan Brown LaA 42-49 Lionel Bruford ThA 47-52 Charles Davidson ColA 39-47 Anna Davison (née Troughton) 6s 77-82 Peter de Ferrars MaA 47-49 Miriam Gent (née Senior) 8s 39-48 Michael Griffiths MdB. ColB 38-46 Cecil Haines PeB 37-44 John Henes ColB 47-55

Michael Lee-Wright ThA 64-70 John Leggett ColA 58-65 Graham Lister BaB, MdB 66-72 Alastair Lyall PrepB, ColA 57-65 Judith Pinsent 7s 41-51 Ian Pirnie PeB 46-53 Adrian Reith BaA, PeA 66-73 John Roberts PrepB, MdA 42-51 Douglas Ruthven ColA 50-57 Marion Rutland (née Davies) 7s 47-54 Angela Sandford (née Pratt) 8s 56-63 Peter Scott PrepB, ThB, LaB 53-63 Peter Shuttleworth PrepA, MaB 51-58 John Spens PeA 43-50 Laurence Steel ThA 58-67 (David) Jack Warner PeA 54-62 Francis

Warner PrepB, MidB 47-54
Raymond Whittaker ColB 35-41
John Wood MdB 41-47
Ethel Zucker (née Corduroy) 7s 38-43

#### 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@christshospital.org.uk

18 THE OLD BLUE SPRING 2022 19



#### **BETTER TOGETHER**

Whether you're an Old Blue, parent or supporter of CH, there are many ways to keep in touch and get involved, we've made it easier than ever, simply use your smartphone to the scan the QR codes below.

#### **KEEP IN TOUCH**

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



oldblues@christs-hospital.org.uk

#### JOIN OUR NETWORK

Join your local Old Blue community or business group to network and attend events with other Old Blues.



choba.org/groups

#### **FIND YOUR FRIENDS**

Our Old Blue online directory helps you to connect with fellow Old Blues and reconnect.



choba.org/directory

#### **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.



oldblues@christs-hospital.org.uk

#### **MAKE A GIFT**

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



christs-hospital.org.uk/support-us/ donate-now/

#### **CATCH UP**

You can catch up on previous virtual Old Blue talks, we keep them listed on our YouTube page



youtube.com

#### **STAY CONNECTED**

T: +44 (0)1403 247619

E: oldblues@christs-hospital.org.uk

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

Christ's Hospital, Horsham, West Sussex RH13 0YP

Registered Charity Number 306975

f Christ's Hospital Old Blues' Association

@CHOldBlues

in Christ's Hospital Old Blues

© CHOldBlues

DITOR

Emma Martin, Engagement Manager

CHOBA PUBLICATIONS LIAISON Bridget West (née Dray) (7s, ColB 84-91)

Special thanks to Toby Phillips Photography tobyphillipsphotography.co.uk