



2023
THE CESTRIAN

The official update for alumni and supporters of the University of Chester



University of
Chester



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We are happy to provide the information in this document in alternative formats on request.



CHESTER COLLEGE

First female residents

60 years ago this September, resident females were admitted to Chester College for the first time in over 120 years. As some of those original students we felt this auspicious occasion should be remembered. We were living in Old College which had been turned from dormitories into single study bedrooms. How lucky we felt.

Students of today have grown up with mobile phones, but it was certainly more difficult to communicate with family and friends during the 1960s. Behind the Science Labs building was a Dr. Who style telephone box - this was our link to the outside world. If someone rang the number, a bell would ring, it was heard all over the campus and it was an unwritten rule that anybody passing would go and answer the call. There was often someone's worried mother on the other end,

wondering how her dear son/daughter was getting along, as it had been some time since they had been in touch. It was then up to the person who had taken the call to comb the campus looking for them. Not easy, but that was the rule. If nothing else, it was good exercise searching the campus.

Friendships we made then have stayed with us.

Who would have imagined back then, there would be the number of female students at the University there are now? Certainly, many more than the 28 of us who started in 1963.

Angie Bayly (Roberts), Sue Carmichael (Mallard), Elaine Nomura (Taylor), Penny Price (Jackson), Sue Stuart (Harris), Jennifer Tattersall (Buckley)

PHILANTHROPY IN FOCUS

Through guidance and empowerment, we shape students to become engaged citizens, like yourselves. This has been at the heart of what we do ever since we first opened as a teacher training college in 1839. But the world today has changed dramatically, and our graduates today, must continue to acquire knowledge and develop their skills, to accomplish even more, to thrive beyond university.

With philanthropy at our roots – starting with a city subscription to support the founding of the college and students volunteering their time and talent to build the Chapel, it remains now as vital as ever. In the last edition of The Cestrian we introduced to you our new ACH1EVE Fund, in this issue we are sharing how this fund has impacted our students and graduates.

ACH1EVE FUND

Launched in September 2022, this fund helps students and graduates achieve even more during their time at the University and helps them stand out in the crowded graduate landscape. The fund is open to all students and recent graduates, helping to achieve opportunities such as trip to a national conference for a teaching student, to an opportunity for the music society to perform in a concert.

By supporting this fund, you can play a part in the stories of today's students, and tomorrow's graduates.

Nathen Hinchcliffe – Graduate of Health and Exercise Science

With the support of the ACH1EVE Fund, I have been able to fund the qualification that is necessary for me to achieve my ambition to work as a strength and conditioning coach within elite level sport.

Alongside this, I hope to gain a Master's degree in Exercise Medicine and the course had allowed to me to study and improve my knowledge in working with athletes to increase my understanding and further prepare me for this.

In gaining this qualification, I now have the training to work with professional athletes including working for an elite level football club, giving me invaluable experience that I may not otherwise have had.

I'm really grateful to the ACH1EVE Fund which has provided me with the opportunity to progress my career aspirations and to have helped make an impact in the local community.





Alex Novacki – Fashion Design (BA Hons)

Being awarded the ACH1EVE Fund has been hugely beneficial in supporting my chosen project. The fund helped me to secure both a pop-up rail on Bond Street for my clothing brand, Alexandra Novacki during London Fashion Week, as well as my runway show that took place in May.

The aim of my project was to produce something new in fashion and create the chance for consumers to speak directly with the designer and provide feedback. The main aim has been to ‘create magic’ through fashion and put together the most memorable runway show the north has ever seen.

Thank you - I will forever be grateful to those who have donated to the ACH1EVE Fund for providing me with the opportunity to progress my passion.



Luke Birch (L4 Sports Journalism):

Being a Sports Journalism student at the University, I had a fantastic and really valuable experience on the experiential trip to Berlin. I found it educational, and it helped me to create amazing memories and make new friendships.

The excursions to Hertha Berlin and Tennis Borussia football matches were personal highlights of the trip and really useful for my degree. It was amazing to witness the history of the prestigious Brandenburg Gate, the Bundestag, and the Olympiastadion.

I'm thankful to the University for allowing me the opportunity to garner this set of cherished experiences that I would not otherwise be able to accumulate at home and to the ACH1EVE Fund for supporting with funding to allow me to attend.

Did you know that University of Chester is a registered charity?

We used funds kindly donated by supporters and alumni to create opportunities like the above, for our talented students and graduates, no matter their backgrounds, so that they can reach their full potential during their time with us, and beyond. We can't do this without you! You can find out more about how you can continue your story at Chester here chester.ac.uk/giving

YEAR NOTES

Year Note Secretaries take a considerable amount of time and effort to gather information on their fellow former students, and this is greatly appreciated.

The University respectfully requests that specific medical conditions and other personal details should only be included if the person being mentioned has given their permission for the information to be published.

Where reports have been significant in length, these have been abridged in order to accommodate information from all those submitted.

1952

I have heard very little news this year. As far as I am aware we still have: Roger Henthorne, Jack Madden, Stan Proud, Bryan Kenworthy, and me. I heard that Arthur Bessel had died but no news of George Hurst.

I have been in hospital for three weeks but I am now recovering with help. Roger has heard from Ray Haydon. Aren't we doing well for over 90!

Ken Wyatt
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1953

This year brings the 70th anniversary of our departure from Chester College to bless the world with our teaching skills and devotion. We are now all in our 90's and the sad loss of Alan Nicholls in July has reduced our survival number to twelve... Alan Crowther, John Herbert, Gill Holt, Eric Henderson, Don Hitchcock, Keith Henney, Lew Reece, Stuart Osborne, Alan McQueen, Dave Tipper, Brian Kenworthy, and me. Sadly, I cannot report that we are all in excellent condition, but we enjoy telephone conversations, sharing happy

memories and generally putting the world to rights.

Unfortunately, no recent news from Norman Roberts or George Holland so please put me in touch if you know of their current details. Walking is not exactly a strong point for most of us, but it was good to learn that Keith Henney manages a morning walk down his garden where his hens usually leave him two or three eggs. I enjoyed a break from isolation in May enjoying a visit from my daughter in Kendal and then returning with her to enjoy some days in the Lake District. Gil Holt's time on the golf course is now very limited. Eric Henderson sadly lost his wife earlier this year and he like

many of us now requires the help of carers. Lew Reece is in a care home at St. Helens, and they tell me that he is fine but due to deafness finds it hard to converse. Alan Crowther continues to enjoy life in the Isle of Man. Dave Tipper who had already given up his running is no longer driving, as applies also to several including myself, Don Hitchcock, Alan McQueen, and Stuart Osborne. Brian Kenworthy, despite his handicap of blindness describes himself as “disgustingly healthy”. My tenth great grandchild now expects a brother in September, I think that allows me to rest a while!

Do stay well and safe and keep in touch.

Alwyn Peel

1957/1958

The flag still flies but the numbers under it dwindle rapidly. We are all in our top eighties or early nineties. And age is wearying us.

Ray Hills in Thornton Cleveleys, looks after Dorothy, still plays a little golf, and is quite active locally. Eric Bolton, in Eastbourne, is now on his own and says he thinks it is time for the slow drawing down of the blinds. We have exchanged emails several times during the year, so I don't believe him.

Simon Nanson, in Clitheroe, is also on his own but managing reasonably well. He gets out of the house with two sticks and a bike but as he says, not at the same time. Malcolm Burrill, in Blackpool, says that the good news is that he keeps waking up bright and early each morning. He looks after Heather and still plays the organ for six Masonic lodges.

Colin Hunt, in Longton, Preston, enjoys coach holidays with Doreen in South Coast, Scotland and Wales. He is in contact with John Smith and Keith Rowles. Dave Walker, in Stockport, claims that the old engine is slowing down and running out of fuel. He is helped a lot by his daughter.

John Slee and Sheila, in Heswall, says they live through their children and families and their many high-level exploits. Sadly, we have lost Ray Thomas and I haven't heard from Brian Martland for some time. I had a Christmas card from Peter Noden and Frances, still busy in the local community and their large garden.

As for Ken Morgan, in Ormskirk, his life is full. Few health problems if you don't count the recent Polymyalgia Rheumatic. He and Jenny thrive on holidays with HPB (membership is one of the best things we have ever done). We have season tickets at

Manchester airport. As I write in July, we have just returned from a month on La Gomera (a Canary Island paradise), another month booked in 2024 and in 2025. Hostage to fortune at its best.

Ken Morgan

Mid Year 1958

Still in possession of copies of 'The Collegian', 1958 – 1960 I was fascinated, recently, to come across Year Reports dating back to 1891 and 1896. Reading them a hundred and thirty-two years later, the thought crosses my mind that the students of today, seeing year notes dating back to 1958, must feel just as I did back then – that such elderly, past students must be as old as Methuselah!

But the rest of the 'Mid'Uns' with whom I am in touch are well and chirpy; and I noticed that one such 'Methuselah' - Neville Parry - wrote our very first notes as our Year Correspondent in 1960. He and Jason are well. Neville and I enjoy a good moan about the state of the world in an occasional telephone conversation.

Brenda and I were privileged in February to attend the inaugural display of part of (Professor) Gordon and Kathy Bell's gift of 320 pieces of studio

ceramics lovingly collected by them both since 1963. 'The Bell Collection', having been gifted to Clare Hall, Cambridge, was an impressive event and saw the 'unveiling' of five tall glass cabinets housing 'a trove of shimmering teapots, jugs, vases bowls and jars.' I felt enormously proud of the existential link between this grand occasion and Gordon's student days at Chester studying art.

On visit to Chester (also in February) I was able, all in one day, to meet up with Mike and Yoland Spencer at Shrewsbury, Paul and Yvonne Chesters at Wistaston and Dave Dixon at the Grosvenor in Chester. The following day I met up Bob Hornby (1957-58) and had dinner with Jim and Wendy Martland at Mickle Trafford. All, I'm happy to report, are in good spirits and, if not 'rude' then 'impolite' health!

Brenda and I have connected, after a two year 'Covid' interlude, with Chas Leather. We meet at John Lewis in Norwich when, after coffee and a good chinwag, we go our separate ways to do 'shopping'.

Of the other eleven of our year with whom I keep more-or-less in touch, apologies for not mentioning you in this report.

Rod Hunt

Mid Year 1961

It is with great sadness that I report the demise of Ian Manship in November 2022 as a result of heart failure following a serious fall. For many years Ian was the glue that kept alumni in touch with each other. He was both a methodical and reliable point of contact, well before the advent of internet communications. After his very serious gardening accident in 2016 he eventually moved from his home in Garstang to Harrogate, where his twin brother Alan lives. There in a self-contained apartment Ian was supported unstintingly and assiduously by Alan and his family. Those who knew him at Chester will remember Ian's self-effacing manner, imperturbable equanimity, and his willingness to join in and help others. His links and help with Church of England children's care homes was evidence of the latter. Others will remember his penchant for creamy coffee and doughnuts at the Northgate Cafe.

All other 18 alumni with whom I remain in contact appear to be thriving in so much as our ages allow, although we are now all into our mid 80's. Most of us retain a penchant for travel in some form or other.

Lawrence Cooke is going to Vancouver in September to visit relatives. Brian Hall has informed me that he and his wife are even contemplating moving to Australia to be with their daughters. Richard Lawson uses the railway network to get about the U.K with a group of friends. Others like to holiday both abroad and in this country.

On the "home front" a sizeable proportion keep active by gardening. Richard Skerrit (the ever-present cox of the Mid-Year 61 Four), cultivates a large variety of garden fruits/berries to use in his home baking recipes. Lawrence Cook, Richard Lawson and I appear to be the only ones taking more serious exercise in the form of regular tennis, fun runs and cycling. Bernie Abbott has informed me that his Achilles tendon problem now unfortunately prevents him from playing golf.

Eric H Draper

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1965

As it's now over sixty years since we started at college, and we're now around eighty, it's inevitable that health issues crop up in conversation, but it's not appropriate to mention them here, except perhaps with

one exception, Bill Donkin. Bill and I were music students (only three of us on the course) and he was the best musician in our year, maybe in the whole college, by quite a margin, though I don't think this was widely appreciated. He moved to Canada in the late sixties where he had a very successful musical career, as did his late wife and his two daughters. I heard from his daughter Christine that he is now being looked after in a care home in Vancouver suffering from loss of memory, though he can still make the piano talk!

Russel Jones took up my challenge of writing his memoirs of Chester, which were of great interest as he was a day student and saw things from a slightly different perspective. He reckons he had the best of two worlds, a social life in Wrexham and another at college.

Our next mini reunion is planned for November at the college (I still think of it as "college") and no doubt reminiscences and nostalgia will be very much to the fore. Best wishes to all.

Colin Rodgers

1968

Another busy year passes by. This week I have just been re-appointed to the International

TT Federation Para Committee for another 2 years. When I played TT at Chester little did I think one day I would be on an International Committee. I am also Deputy Chair of Sport & Recreation Alliance Games & Sport Division; not bad for someone who was not on PE course at Chester College.

I will miss Chester Reunion this year as it clashes with the European Para Championships at Sheffield of which I am the Chairman. Then I finish my term of office with British Para TT.

In December 22 it was an honour to attend Windsor Castle to receive the OBE from HRH The Princess Royal. She even apologised saying 'sorry you have got me again' as in 2009 she had presented me with the MBE at Buckingham Palace.

Please stay in touch my email is k_tonge@sky.com. Amazing to think over 50 years since we physically left Chester, but it is always in my DNA.

Karen M Tonge OBE (nee green)

1969

I begin my report with extreme disappointment, having not heard from anyone beyond the PE 'WhatsApp' group, other than Gwen Thompson and Malcolm Henderson.

Sadly, I must report the loss of a mighty giant from our Year,

Bert Bell. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family.

My report henceforth relates purely to the PE group, who have sustained me throughout the pandemic and beyond. Dave Cowell organised a 'mini reunion', which included the Cowells, Stolls, Seels, Moulders, Pringles, Jim MacMullan, and Pat, plus me. This was at the end of September. We all stayed at the excellent Lauriston Court in Llandudno. They made us most welcome, and even set up a lounge especially for us to enjoy fellowship, which included a singsong, with individual contributions from Jeff, Alun, with harmonising from Chris. The picturesque Penmaenmawr golf course was the setting for an enjoyable match, won by Dave, with superb performances from Kathy, Jeff, and Alun. We also enjoyed a walk in the Colwyn Bay Area.

A further smaller mini reunion was organised by Dave in March, this time in Northumbria at the Dunstanburgh Castle. This was enjoyed by the Cowells, Leitheads, Moulders, Dennisons, Jim MacMullan and Pat, with Mick and Jackie Pink also, which was most welcome. A visit to Lindisfarne and Bamburgh Castle was included and enjoyed by all.

I would hope there may

be other WhatsApp groups within our year to send me reports and information, as I'm keen to contemplate another special Reunion in 2026 (if I'm still around!). I would love to hear from you and give you full permission to contact me via my email as below.

Geoffrey Mackenzie
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1970

This year I have been pleased to add five new ladies to my contacts list thanks to Isabel Ainsworth (nee Robertson). Isabel is part of a group of six who regularly arrange holidays and cruises together. This year's get-together in Kendal was attended by Janet Howson (nee Allonby), Sue Sawle (nee Pincock), Barbara Tunney (nee Adams), Jane Valentine (nee Parker) and Sue Warner (nee Alcock). I look forward to hearing more from them in the future.

Keith Morrison is now in his 24th year of living in Macau, China, and he is still working full time as the Vice-rector at the University of Saint Joseph. He has two more large books on education in the pipeline for 2025/26, by which time, in his 76th year, he is proposing to retire, continuing to live in sub-tropical Macau and returning

only infrequently to the UK. He is still in touch with John Watts in Yorkshire and John Turnock in Shropshire.

Since finishing his PhD nearly ten years ago John Verney finds that his life revolves around playing double bass in orchestras around Newcastle-upon-Tyne, singing in a choir and playing classical guitar with violin and cello friends. He and Margaret (nee Instone - Chester 1971) are now 49 years into their marriage and still riding their tandem together and discovering the joys of cycling in England, since the pandemic stopped them going abroad. Making musical instruments and woodturning help to fund their holidays.

Dick Gillingham's work as a Trustee at Fleetwood Museum continues with more structural work on the building and on-going partnerships with community groups. As a family they have just completed 10 years involvement at Widnes Ice Hockey Club, where their son is a coach. Media work and match night arrangements are part of their roles. Dick tells me that he had a health setback following a stroke in mid-March. Fortunately, due to a swift intervention, he has been able to make a good recovery, but has had to slow down a little!

My very best wishes to all the 1970 cohort and if anything

in these notes brings back a memory, then please get in touch.

Kelvin Young
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1971

The task of reporting on the achievements of the cohort of Cestrians who went out into the teaching profession in 1971 has been passed on to me. Sue Hector was my predecessor, a fellow historian in the days of Miss Cann. Our introduction to Charlemagne and Romanesque architecture began together in September 1968. It was also the first time I set eyes on my future wife; I married Lynne Wade from Accrington in December 1971 with a greater appreciation of church architecture.

My first report begins with Alan 'Bud' Hill, the Derbyshire cricketer who was recently elected President of the Derbyshire cricket club. A great honour for a dedicated sportsman who has served the club for many years. In our days at Chester PE College, he was the cricketer to watch out for in the following years. After we all left in 1971 Bud was one of the first of the B.Ed students who did the extra year.

If I may be permitted, I'd like to mention my own achievements. With the

encouragement of Mike Mills, who also continued for an extra year as the Guild President, I was elected to the College Guild Council. Here began my journey into representing and serving others. At this year's May local elections, I was elected to serve my ward on the Hyndburn Borough Council. Ironically call people in Accrington my Councillor these days. It's challenging but I'm still learning. So how did Chester College shape your life?

Mike 'Tommy' Booth

1972

Steve Barnett, recalling his college years, says that he revelled in opinions and discussion whilst learning from the likes of Viv Davies who said, in his wonderful accent, 'establish a pattern and then see who isn't fitting into it.'

Steve returned to his TP school at Well Lane Middle School for three years where he met my wife Ann. This was followed by working at Overleigh Middle in Chester, then a deputy headship in Winsford before headship at Arley. Steve then returned to Burton on the Wirral.

Steve says, "I was head at Bishop Wilson School for fourteen years before depression kicked in and

I resigned and gave up ... despite my efforts, without revolutionising education. We have two children and five grandchildren who we adore. I've since been rehabilitated and built our own house in Kelsall where all are invited to call in and share a drink on our balcony with its view of Chester and the Welsh hills ... and the tower block of Chester College/University, with all its memories."

Pat Ransome (née Salter) reflecting on her career writes, "Like many others, my story was based firmly in education, following in the steps of my three years at Chester. A break for family, but quickly returning to an interesting and diverse career moving from secondary to primary teaching and finishing in early years – I am a firm believer in the foundations we set for our youngest children."

Pat continues, "I once returned to a College Open Day to enquire about embarking on a degree course not long after leaving. There a tutor, known to many of us and possibly very wise, sent me on my way with the words 'Your Certificate of Education from Chester is of equal merit, so put it to good use – go and teach.' So, I did and indeed didn't look back. Retired now, I continue to work on a voluntary basis, the

work ethic and keeping busy approach a legacy from Chester. I am a councillor on our local community council, which throws up some interesting challenges to keep you on your toes."

Kenneth Kay

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1973

This year marks 50 years since we graduated from Chester College.

Dewi Butler said this year has been the best ski season ever in Park City as they had 500 inches of snow! Dave Hadden continues to commute between Liverpool and Spain with Spain looking the more favourable option.

Eddie Lewis spends winter enjoying the sunshine with Joe Hay and Dave Mulligan is still running 10K and did a half marathon too. John Williams is still managing his sheep farm but cutting back on the number of sheep and renting out some fields to lighten his workload. Dave Robertson is going to cycle 950 miles from Caen to Nice at the end of September. I've heard from Jill Peterson who has lived in Canada for the last 35 years. After studying for a B.Ed and an MA in linguistics she taught English to adults at Ottawa University which

she really enjoyed. Her friend Elaine (Craven) now lives in Birmingham and has been in touch. She had a knee replacement last year but keeps walking and doing Pilates.

Gaynor (Hale) was busy all winter rehearsing for the musical *Stepping Out* with Southport Spotlights. Sue and Gwil went to Australia and New Zealand in January for a few weeks, but the last few days of their trip were curtailed by the tornado which hit the country. I heard from Carol (Dickinson) recently. She feels fine in herself but is struggling with walking. Sheila and Tony spent a lovely if chaotic week in Anglesey this summer with all the family which includes 8 young grandchildren. Liz and Ken Oliver are keeping busy but mentioned a few more creaking joints these days.

As for me, I keep golfing, but the scores vary from good for a few weeks then awful. I do it more for the exercise and fresh air.

Apart from Christmas cards I haven't heard from Stephen Cooper lately, I think he may have mentioned moving to Switzerland. I had a request from Yvonne Warren (Evans) to help her find friends from college that she had lost touch with. She has not yet found Heather Robinson or Mavis Critchley so if anyone has their

contact details maybe we could help them reconnect.

If you have any news for the next Cestrian please get in touch.

Teresa (Tree) Gould
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1976/1977

My recent 50th school reunion in Pwllheli reminded me we not only sat our A levels and left school in 1973, but we also began life at Chester College that year. A half century ago, no less, but I remember the relief of making the grade, followed by the excitement of travelling to Chester with an old trunk full of essentials, including a M&S dressing-gown which I still own.

So here we are in the words of Cheryl Hart (Pepper) fifty years "... older, wonky knees and old nana shoes for sore feet, no more stilettos or miniskirts. No more gymnastics, aerobics or 100m sprints. Just young ones giving up their seats, for which I am now grateful." Ignoring the Corona kilos and associated lack of fitness myself, the PE ethos of Chester is upheld by many. Denise Mather (Deighton) who began running at 70, completed the London Marathon in 2021. Alison Rook has taken over sixties cycling fitness to extremes by not only taking Yorkshire roads in her stride but

making a grand European tour. Second only to Gary Prescott, the record breaking "Green Biking Birder" who surely holds the high altitude record he set in Peru. Hillary Crawshaw (m. Askew), Isa Hyde, Brenda and Peter Rigby are serious walkers. Isa still teaches tennis and yoga part time and continues working as an accountant in Washington D.C. Chris Howarth and Keith Greenwood sail regularly and other fitness-inducing activity includes Karen Cream's Batala Band percussion drumming and occasional plank performances to replace her cartwheels of yore.

Firm Chester friends Barbara Steventon and Sue Beattie are keeping equally fit and active in various Am-dram roles from the Queen of Hearts to the chorus line, with daughter Laura following in B's dancing and singing footsteps.

The more sedentary of us include Gail Abrahms, an exchange student from SUNY Plattsburgh, USA where she still lives, works as a supply teacher, and would love to hear from anyone who remembers her. In Southport, I took Keith Mistry out for a birthday lunch on my way up north. Then leisure industry consultant, David Owen (PE), also from Pwllheli, kindly hosted me in Lancaster. Up the road in Cumbria, Jackie and Alan Wright are often away

from home as active Caravan & Motorhome Club devotees. Music making is still a high priority, with J. adding to her instrument count each time we speak. The Southport Show and Edinburgh Fringe being just two of their 2023 engagements. Up the west coast to Olivia in Ayr, who reminds everyone of Astrid, both of whom are thriving, but I've been unable to trace the other two 1976 NI girls, Wendy, and Jennifer from Ballymena. Across in Yorkshire, Hilary "Dierdre" and Pete Mathews have been growing their own around holidays abroad. Brenda Rigby covers miles not only locally in Derbyshire but also hills and coasts including Snowdonia and circuiting the Scilly Islands with husband, Peter (1972). Many have been in wedding photos this year, as children and grandchildren move on in their lives. You know who you are!

It is the duty of each Year Secretary to provide the link between the past and present, but with few Cestrians who keep directly in touch, I must rely on gossip and social media for most news. Please keep in touch.

Janet Kaiser (nee Hankin)
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1983

This year marks the fortieth anniversary since our cohort of alumni started at Chester College as it was back in 1983. It was a roller coaster experience for many of us, but as a small group of regular attendees at reunion we still have the same thrill and excitement when we return to campus.

Like so many alumni, life has presented twists and turns and we have lost a few friends along the way. This year, to mark our 40th, we are honoured to

be able to contribute to the purchase of a fruit tree for the chaplaincy garden. For us it will represent the love that our dear friend Gill had for trees and the campus. We will also be remembering other friends who are no longer with us. Melek, Tim and Linda. However, it will not be a memorial tree: it will be a living testament to the power of growth, nature and sustainability as students and staff tend the tree and reap the benefits of the fruit.

Past, present, and future will come together as we tread the earth that those before us have trodden, nurture those studying at Chester now and encourage future generations who will become part of the Chester story.

Sharon Forsdyke
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YEAR NOTES

The 2024 edition of The Cestrian will again feature Year Notes from our Year Secretaries. So that we can include everyone's news, please could we request that submissions are kept to a maximum of 300 words and are received by us no later than August 23, 2024. We recommend that Year Notes are emailed to thecestrian@chester.ac.uk so that we can acknowledge receipt.

CESTRIAN REMEMBERED

The University was saddened to receive obituaries for the following alumni and staff this year. Please note that these are presented in date order of alumni year.

George Michael Woods 1950

Michael Woods (Mike) was born in Preston, Lancashire in 1926. His family moved to the Oldham area in the early thirties, where he attended Hulme Grammar School with his brother Peter. In 1944, Michael left school to join the British Army. The Second World War was in full swing, and he was just 17 years old.

Michael was sent to Wales to do basic training in surveying and cartography and after a year of dawn reveille and boot camps was admitted to the OCTU (Officer Cadet Training Unit) at Merton College, Oxford. He became a lieutenant in the Royal Artillery, serving in Treviso and

Venice in Italy and the Gaza Strip in Palestine. When the British Army left Palestine in mid-1948, Lieutenant Woods was demobbed after five years of service. He returned to England and decided to enrol at Chester College to become a teacher.

While at Chester, Michael captained the football team and as a cashed up former soldier with a sweet tooth, he was a regular visitor to the Kardomah Coffee Shop in Chester's Eastgate for afternoon tea and juicy crumpets. In 1950 he graduated, proposed to his sweetheart Nancy, and settled down to a much less adventurous existence in Delph in Saddleworth, where he lived happily for the next 67 years.

Michael had a successful teaching career, firstly at Durnford Street Secondary in Middleton (1950-54); then Delph Primary where he became deputy head (1954-1963); Denshaw Primary (1963-1969) for his first post as headmaster and finally Friezland Primary (1969-1986) where he was also headmaster. He was a keen footballer and cricketer and enjoyed playing with the lads at school right up to retirement at age 60.

His knowledge of warfare, engineering and physics coupled with a creative mind kept the class entertained during maths lessons, showing the class how to besiege a medieval city using the correct angle of elevation

and weight of missile. And why a parrot was the perfect example of a cantilever.

Alongside sport, Michael also loved music and was a talented 'play by ear' pianist. He could often be heard whistling and singing with a smile on his face. His mind was quick and agile and as a wordsmith he enjoyed puns and clever jokes, wrote witty poems and parodies, and tackled the Telegraph crossword each evening. He had a happy, kind-hearted, warm, and generous nature and always looked on the bright side of life. Over the years, he taught more than a thousand children, many of whom still remember him fondly, saying he was always fair and wanted everyone to do well.

Michael enjoyed a long retirement - gardening and relaxing with friends, visiting his daughter Stella in Australia and spending time with his son Simon, daughter in law Jill and grandchildren, Isabella, and Alex. He passed away at the grand old age of 96 in December 2022 and will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

Stella Woods – Daughter

David Hough

1951

David worked in South

Staffordshire Secondary Modern Schools, mostly as an Art Teacher until, due to his father's terminal illness, he took charge of the family business, the manufacture of locks, in which he remained, as Managing Director, until 1987. His close friend and college colleague Tony Hindley, in the advanced art course under J W Clarke, took a holiday job as David's Yorkshire Sales Representative and was amazingly successful.

David and his wife Barbara raised a family - a daughter and three sons. There are several grandchildren and a great-grandson. Barbara died after 30 years of marriage. David's remarriage to Margaret, a former University Teacher, lasted for 37 years. For some twelve years semi-retired in North Wales, David was an author's illustrator, a late-night Hotel Barman, and a property landlord. Since 1998 David and his wife were retired living in County Donegal, Ireland.

David passed away peacefully - after a short illness - in Letterkenny University Hospital on 13 October 2022.

James Hough (his youngest son)

Alan Nicholls

1953

Alan died on the 5th July 2023 and only days before I

had enjoyed the most recent of our regular telephone conversations, when he was as lively as ever despite the knowledge of his serious illness.

Not large in stature but great in character and humour and in many ways a typical Liverpudlian, at college he became well known, liked and respected, was involved in various activities and in sport earned his colours for hockey and tennis. Some years after commencing his teaching career in Liverpool he moved south to become head of a remedial department in a Comprehensive school in Essex which then led to the Deputy Headship of a Special school in Sussex. The call of the North brought him to Manchester in 1966 as Head of a new Special school followed some years later by his appointment as Adviser for Special Education in Salford. The final years of his career saw him remain in Special Education as a Senior adviser in Derbyshire. Retirement in 1990 brought time for Alan and his wife Irene to spend some happy years and he often talked of his love of gardening, singing, green bowling, painting, travelling and imbibing! He and Irene married shortly after Alan left college and life brought them two sons and a daughter, of whom they were very proud. Sadly, Irene predeceased him

by a couple of years. Prior to retirement Alan had never been to a college reunion but once experienced he did not miss another. It was at one such event that among a small group walking down Eastgate, Alan boasted of staying at the Grosvenor Hotel. Amidst our surprise he confessed that it was only for a weekend - his honeymoon! Another regular trip was to an art shop in Bridge Street, usually accompanied by his good friend, Eric Henderson, and me. Replenishment of materials for his painting eventually brought forth paintings of Derbyshire scenes for both Eric and I. Framed and with a lovely inscription on the back they remain treasured, adorning our study walls.

Regularly at reunions Alan would find time to mention his lack of a Bishop's Certificate. The Vice Chancellor queried this with me and the following year after dinner he announced to all present that he wished to correct this error of so many years ago, called Alan forth and presented the desired document. Looking at it with surprise and pride, Alan then announced that after 60 years waiting, they couldn't spell his name correctly (only one L in Nicholls!) His statement and the manner of declaration brought forth laughter and amusement, with the Vice Chancellor

hastening away to return with another Bishop's Certificate (bearing the correct spelling of Nicholls,) with cheers and applause from all. Sadly, now all in our '90s, fun moments such as this will be no more, but we will remember our friend Alan and count ourselves fortunate that we were friends for so many years.

Alwyn Peel

Eveline J Nelson (née Peel) **1966**

I met Eve on our first day at Chester College, in September 1963. The first residents of Old College 22 and 23, next door to each other. We were both studying Science and Maths, so our paths crossed all the time. I remember that she seemed so much more confident than most of us. I later found out that Eve lived on a remote farm, at West End, near Harrogate and when she won a scholarship to Ripon High School at eleven years of age, she had to board at the school from Monday to Friday. She later became head girl at the school. Eve was the first female member of the Guild Council (Student Union) and decided to form a hockey team with sometimes some very reluctant players.

After leaving Chester she taught Maths, Physics and P.E.

at Tadcaster Grammar. She later taught Biology and P.E. at Pateley Secondary School. After marrying and having two children, Eve went to teach in a primary school, where she was responsible for special needs children. As well as all this, Eve gained a B.Ed degree and later went on to achieve an M.A. in Education.

After her husband died, Eve was encouraged to join the Harrogate branch of the Lions Club charity. Her talents were recognised, and she played a very full part in the work they do, becoming the President and Zone Chair at a district level. She was also awarded The Melvyn Jones Fellow Award for the work she had done with the Lions.

Eve lived a full, interesting life and Chester College was a big part of that. Being in the small band of the first resident female students, Eve used her experiences to help to establish the place and role of women in the life of Chester College/University.

Susan Carmichael

Lyn Palmer (née Burke) **1968**

Sadly, Lyn died on the 24 March as a result of vascular dementia.

I met Lyn on the first weekend at Chester College in September 1965. She was an

enthusiastic member of the Drama Society and embraced every opportunity higher education had to offer. By the third year we were an item and when we qualified as teachers Lyn taught in Bootle while I went to Nigeria with V.S.O. While I was overseas, Lyn saved up to come and see me. This was one of the first adventures we shared. On my return she agreed to marry me. I was working at the Outward-Bound School on the Moray Firth in Scotland in a small fishing village. Lyn taught in the village school and established herself as a well-liked and respected person in the village.

After three years working in Scotland, we moved to Bermuda where she taught early years in a girl's school. We took full advantage of our long summer holidays and explored South and North America as well as the Caribbean. When our contract came to an end we sailed over to Fort Lauderdale in Florida and made our way back to the U.K. via Canada, Hawaii, South Pacific islands, Southeast Asia, Hong Kong, Nepal, India, and Afghanistan, picking up odd jobs on the way. When we finally arrived back home, we ran a hotel in the Scottish Highlands. Subsequently I worked for a local authority residential outdoor school while Lyn cared for our first son, followed

quickly by his brother. While they were small Lyn started her journey with the Open University, gaining an Honours Degree in Psychology.

Following several more moves we finally settled in Bryntysilio Outdoor Education Centre just outside Llangollen in north Wales. Lyn decided on a change of career and became a manager in the one of the nascent Training and Enterprise Councils. She also completed her MBA, again in her spare time, with the Open University. Eventually Lyn decided to start her own management consultancy. By this time, she was an associate tutor with the O.U. and Henley Management College, working with high profile multinational companies in the U.S.A. and Europe.

Lyn was also involved in politics, campaigning for parliamentary and Senedd candidates. Although we were successful locally, nationally it was a bit of a disaster. However, change came in 1997. On election night we were glued to the television and Lyn decided she was going to have a glass of champagne to celebrate every Labour gain - with a predictable outcome.

Shortly after she retired at sixty-five Lyn was diagnosed with dementia. Despite this devastating news we regularly visited our son, his wife and

our two granddaughters in Massachusetts, our youngest son in Vietnam, the Arctic Circle and the French Alps. Eventually I had to move into residential care where she died, peacefully, holding my hand.

John Palmer

Bert Bell

1969

Like many of you, I didn't know Bert Bell, yet he was clearly a larger-than-life figure amongst us, who stood out in our midst, whether as PE students or otherwise. I therefore present the following potpourri of thoughts and memories of Bert. (My apologies to colleagues for only including snippets from their contributions).

Martin Finning:

In any large gathering, it would seem inevitable that someone would cast an unforgettable, indelible mark on our collective memory through a combination of attributes - skill, personality, appearance, sense of humour, empathy etc. In my VERY humble opinion, our gentle giant, Bert, springs to mind. Bert was gifted and developed much power. He cast an impressive figure decked out in his weightlifting clobber. He would have been a formidable opponent on the rugby field as a prop. He was second best

only to Tom, as a water polo player. He made a significant contribution to fitness development on the island of Grand Bahama and married a local girl from there.

George Marsh:

I can remember Bert. As I recall, he was always willing to express an opinion. Usually up for any challenge relating to strength. He was generally accepted by a wide group of people.

Dave Hodkinson:

As a northerner I felt a bit daunted by the man from 'The big smoke'!

Alun Stoll:

My most unforgettable memory was seeing Bert stop a rugby match in mid-stream to have all players and officials search for his good friend's contact lenses!

Mike Beloe:

A great person to be around, always had an opinion, many were strongly held, some were just to wind people up!

Dave Cowell:

Dave recalls an hilarious soccer and rugby team trip to Manchester where Bert and Dennis Mulkerrin were involved at a large night club with an act featuring a strong man in a leopard skin garment. (Due to the word limit, I'll ask Dave to relate it should we have another '69 Reunion').

Joe Pringle:

Bert's green Ford Consul

brought me back from a surf and white-water canoe course at Plas y Brenin in a howling gale, with my motorbike hanging out of his boot to save me from getting soaked on the way back to Chester.

A fitting end in honour of Bert Bell.

Geoffrey Mackenzie

Ann Wareham

1970

I am sorry to report the death of Ann Wareham (1967-70) in December 2022, aged 74. She died unexpectedly and suddenly after many years of multiple and serious illnesses that had made her largely housebound. After qualifying at Chester College in 1970, she worked for many years in special education in the north-east of England. She worked in non-mainstream schools in early years education with children with learning difficulties, and in a newly established unit in Gateshead for children of all school ages who had been excluded from mainstream schools because of emotional and behavioural challenges. For some time, she worked with young children with learning difficulties in mainstream schools in Scarborough, returning to working in the north-east of

England, at Harelaw special school, at Stanley, County Durham until having to take early retirement on health grounds.

Ann had a gift for working with children who presented with very challenging behaviours, emotional difficulties, and learning problems. Her patience, tolerance, and empathy were matched by a colourful and profoundly caring personality. Her relations with children and their families were exceptional, and she was very well liked and respected. She had a touch of flamboyance on occasions. For example, she cycled to work on her bright yellow, adult-size rickshaw tricycle with her youngest son strapped into a back seat; she drove to work in an over-powered Mini Cooper racing car, complete with the original 'racing green' colour. She wore bright clothes and a range of jewelled nose studs depending on the season.

For several years she lived in the remote countryside of Upper Weardale, County Durham. She leaves three grown-up children who live in the north of England. We were married for 25 years; we split up in the 1990s, and she re-married, and so did I.

Keith Morrison

DECEASED STAFF

Dr Trevor Howell Jones 1959-1971

Dr Trevor Howell Jones was born and raised in Trecynon near Aberdare, South Wales. Incidentally, where my father was also born and raised. Life for Trevor and his sister Mary was not easy, his mother died when he was 15 and father when he was in university. His father served in WW1 and rode a camel alongside Lawrence of Arabia. Trevor was fortunate during the WW2, in not being evacuated to Canada as the ship was hit by a German torpedo with a huge loss of life.

Passing the 11+ for Aberdare Boys Grammar was a proud achievement for Trevor and gaining sufficient qualifications for entry to Durham University graduating in the biological sciences. After

Durham and National Service, Trevor took up a teaching post at Coleshill Grammar School from 1953-1959. He married Margaret in 1957 and family life began with the birth of their daughter Anne.

In 1959 Trevor was appointed lecturer in Biology at Chester Teacher Training College alongside David Hooper lecturer in Maths and Physics. Chester became home for the next 12 years; daughters Beth and Jane were born. Trevor enjoyed teaching and pursued his interest in scientific research on the effects of radioactivity on the shell structure of molluscs - MSc Durham 1965: PhD Reading 1970 often corresponding with Linus Pauling FRS. Trevor also liked sport particularly rowing, he was cox for Chester Rowing club and president of the college rowing club.

Trevor had a very good rapport with his students and kept in touch with many long after retirement. I was fortunate, Trevor was my biology lecturer and personal

tutor at Chester, his help and guidance remained with me for the next 68 years.

In 1971 the family moved back to Wales, Trevor being appointed Chief Advisor for Education for South Glamorgan supporting schools, colleges, and their staff. Trevor retired in 1991. Retirement gave time to pursue a continued interest in science particularly radioactive isotopes, presenting a paper to the European Parliament. He read Stephen Hawkins', A Theory of Everything and understood it. A sad time came at the loss of his daughter Beth due to breast cancer - the strong bond with Margaret, Anne and Jane provided a rock to lean on. His love of books, thirst for knowledge and being computer literate continued until he died in November 2022, he was a huge presence and touched the lives of many. We will miss him.

Dr Alun Davies
(Chester 1961-1964)



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