

Oldham
Hulme
Grammar School



The Hulme Link

All the Alumni news from Oldham Hulme Grammar School | Spring 2021

A Word from the Principal

A Career in the RAF

Bursaries Boosted by
Generous Gift from Alumni

Charity Begins at Hulme

2020 Manchester Reunion

William Robertson “Joe”
Scott remembered



20th March 2020

The Day Learning Changed

A Word from the Principal

Mr Craig Mairs



Craig Mairs - Principal

The academic year 2019 to 2020 has been like one none of us can remember. All sections of society have been affected by COVID 19 and schools have certainly not been immune to that disruption. We have done our very best to adapt and have coped well. I read a quotation recently which said that: "The pessimist complains about the wind. The optimist expects it to change. The leader adjusts the sails." It feels like we have been called upon many times during the year to adjust the sails!

The Coronavirus Crisis

We had been monitoring the news on this issue from February half-term and we had to respond nimbly to a developing public health crisis through introducing strict hygiene controls and clear communication with stakeholders. On Wednesday 18th March at 5pm the Prime Minister announced that schools would be closing from Friday 20th March which presented the school with perhaps the most significant challenge in its recent history.

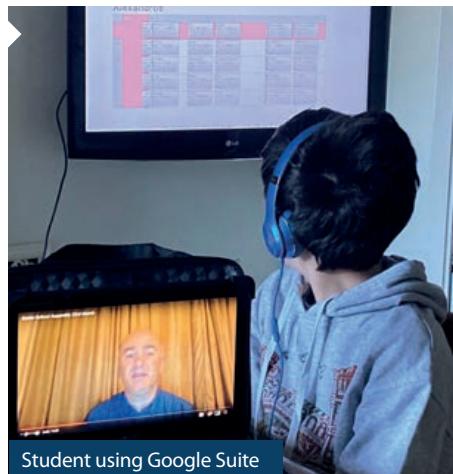


Staff Support

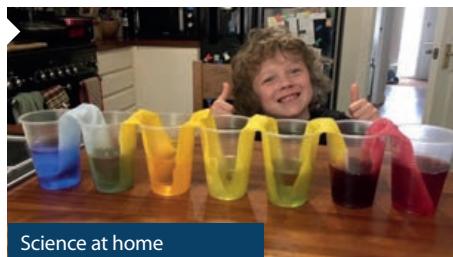
Educational Provision during the school closure

We had been preparing for this moment for five years through our Google Suite project and were much better placed than most other schools to maintain a high level of education. We tried to follow the school timetable (as much as possible) and provided lessons through this structure through online Google classrooms. These lessons were interactive with teachers online for the duration of the lesson and able to provide appropriate support for the pupils.

We were very pleased with how well staff and pupils adapted to these circumstances, and



Student using Google Suite



Science at home

the feedback from parents indicated that they appreciated the efforts of everyone at Hulme in preserving as much routine and normality as possible.

As we moved into the autumn term the focus shifted to the safe return of pupils and staff and the need to cater for those who needed to self-isolate through providing a blended approach.



PE with Joe Wicks

Again the response has been superb and we are proud of how our pupils' education has continued uninterrupted.

Public Examination Results

This year's A Level results day was like no other. Set against the backdrop of continuing concerns about public health, this year's grades were initially awarded by a combination of school centre assessed grades and statistical modelling devised by Ofqual. Following a significant public outcry about the methodology used, and the individual unfairness that this produced, the controversial algorithm used to create these results was scrapped, and the examination boards were instructed to issue grades based on the original centre assessed grades. The press reporting that the initial results did not affect independent schools was inaccurate. A significant number of our students had initial grades which were unfair and we shared their anger and frustration. As a school we had been in favour of some sort of moderation, but following the initial issuing of results, it was clear that the only possible approach was to revert to the centre assessed grades.

The final picture for our year group is of a superb set of grades with 23% of grades at A*, 86% at A*-B level and 100% at A*-D. However, at Oldham Hulme Grammar School we teach individual students, not an overall set of statistics and we care deeply about their well-being and success. The class of 2020 at Hulme were a very strong cohort, and we are very pleased for our students across the ability range who have now been awarded results that reflect their efforts and ability.

There were many outstanding individual sets of results with our top performer, Sagarika Koppara, being awarded 5x A* grades and two other students, Nathan Green and George Spencer, being awarded 4x A* grades.

We are pleased that students were able to proceed to the next stage of their education. In terms of university admissions, we are delighted that 3 students gained places at Cambridge and 7 progressed to degrees reading: medicine, dentistry or veterinary science. This represents 19% of the year's cohort.

GCSE 2020

On 20th August our Year 11 students celebrated a superb set of GCSE results.

They had endured the most horrendous set of circumstances: from the initial uncertainty generated by the lockdown, to the anxiety that the controversy surrounding the use of Ofqual's algorithm created for them.

Our Year 11 students had already worked extremely hard before lockdown, and they did

not stop working on the 20th March. Instead they engaged fully with their online lessons and undertook A Level bridging courses when GCSE study ended in May. No-one would pretend that grades are not important, but I believe that in years to come it is the personal qualities that they have demonstrated in this crisis of: determination, resilience and initiative that will set these young people apart. I am also very proud of our dedicated staff team who worked tirelessly to continue to teach and support our students through this time.



Excellent exam results

Their results were excellent and there were many impressive individual performances. Our top performing girl and boy achieved 10x Grade 9s and 9x Grade 9s respectively. However, there were many success stories across our ability range and we shared our students' joy and relief.

The overall pass rate was 100% with 62% 9-7 and 38% 9-8 grades.

Staffing

As ever, a new academic year sees some change in the staff body and this year saw three significant retirements in Tony Halliwell in the Juniors and Philip Beagon and Paul Langdon in Senior School.



Tony Halliwell

Hulme Juniors a force to be reckoned with in chess, and we will now need someone else to take care of the Hulme Court chickens!

Dr Beagon has taught Latin at Hulme since 1994 and Mr Langdon IT and Computer Science since 2000. Generations of Hulme students have cause to be grateful for their dedication and skill both inside and outside of the classroom. Dr Beagon has epitomised academic rigour and given much to the wider life of the school through countless trips, quizzes and golf. We were all delighted for him last year when the Mock Trial team won their annual competition at Manchester Crown Court at the 18th time of trying!

Mr Langdon has seen considerable change in his subject area since 2000 and has taught with flair and good humour. He was at the forefront of the introduction of Google suite at Hulme and we have much to thank him for. I am sure alumni will join me in wishing all of these colleagues



Paul Langdon

every happiness in retirement.

This autumn Nick James took up the post of Headmaster of Hipperholme Grammar School in Halifax. Mr James began his teaching career at Hulme in 1994 and has played

a crucial role in the school's success during his time here; not least in his recent role as Deputy Principal (Academic). He was instrumental in the school securing a "double excellent" rating last autumn and this promotion is richly deserved. The best compliment I can pay him is that the pupils of Hipperholme are very lucky to have secured a Head who will demonstrate great kindness, wisdom and empathy.

Pupil Successes

Sport

In football the Juniors footballers enjoyed taking part in a tournament at England's training facilities at St. George's Park, and they won the first stage of their AJIS tournament. Despite a defeat, the 1st XI enjoyed hosting Eton College in the ISFA Cup whilst our U9s were undefeated at their AJIS festival. All school teams were undefeated during the coronavirus lockdown!

We continued to enjoy success in netball. Our Juniors team reached the semi-finals of the AJIS competition. Our U12s were Oldham Schools League Champions and reached the Plate final in national Sisters in Sport competition. Meanwhile our U14 netballers won both the Oldham Schools rally and league.

The U13 cricketers won the Oldham Schools' Cup at the beginning of the autumn term in a final held over from the previous year at Werneth CC.

There were impressive individual achievements by our pupils with Emily Hilton of Year 10 becoming National Junior Gymnastics Champion finishing 1st on beam, 1st on vault and 3rd on the bars. Meanwhile Tom Green of Year 10 was the bronze medallist in the British U17 fencing championships.

Our Junior swimmers again qualified for the national finals at Ponds Forge in both the freestyle and medley relay events.

The Junior athletic team also brought home an impressive haul of medals from the indoor AJIS competition.

Arts

In the arts a successful Key Stage 4 drama showcase and Key Stage 3 drama production took place in the Main Hall. The senior school choir performed well at Speech Night and at the annual Carol Service in Manchester, which again was very well attended.

On an individual level, Amber Siddiq of Year 10 won the Classical Sequence category at the IDTA Nationwide Classical and Modern Sequence Finals at the Winter Gardens in Blackpool. She was also

2nd in the Modern Sequence category.

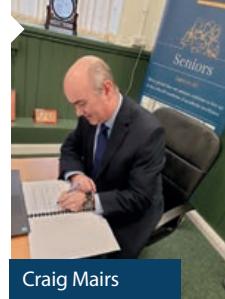
Before school closed both Juniors and Senior school music festivals took place and were excellent events. This was followed by a successful



Swimming success

Senior School Concert. Sadly, Beauty and the Beast had to be postponed due to the unfolding crisis.

International Development



Craig Mairs

There are exciting plans for the future development of the school and at the time of writing we have just signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Khalil Gibran School in Rabat, Morocco, to develop our partnership. We will be providing management support

to the school e.g. teacher training and working closely with them on their new school in Tangier. Funds generated will be used for bursaries at Hulme.

Alumni

As ever we are very grateful for the support of alumni, both financially and in terms of offering their time and expertise to current students. Unfortunately, large scale events such as the London Reunion and Annual Dinner were unable to be held because of the pandemic this year. The total fundraising income for the year was £110k and our emergency COVID 19 appeal raised £30k. This enabled us to help families who experienced unexpected hardship due to the pandemic and prevented them having to withdraw their children. My thanks to all alumni who contributed in this way.

A number of alumni have visited the school over the past twelve months to pass on their expertise to current pupils and we want to develop this further with a programme of initiatives that will benefit both current students and recent alumni. Taking this forward is our new Development Director, Claire Brownlie, who was previously Director of Development at Queen Mary University of London. She is an alumna (who attended due to an assisted place) and a recent parent. She is very well placed to talk about the hugely positive impact that philanthropy can have on the School and our pupils. We are also pleased that Bianca Fischer who previously held this role is joining the Board of Governors.

We do look forward to the return of greater 'normality' and being able to welcome more alumni back to school in the months ahead.



Claire Brownlie

Development Director at OHGS

(OHGS 1983 – 1990)

Update from your Development Office

This year will go down as one of the most unusual of most of our lifetimes. A year when all of us have had to learn to do things differently. The Principal has shared news of how school has responded to the challenge and the following pages are filled with your news, which I thank you for so generously sharing.

I am sad to not be able to report on the usual gatherings of alumni. I expect next year will be quite the year for reunions, which I hope to see many of you at.

The Principal also shared the fantastic news of how alumni have continued to support school and our pupils through donations, and we are particularly grateful for the way in which alumni responded to our COVID 19 Hardship Appeal. And despite the pandemic, alumni have continued to help share their experience and expertise with pupils as they plan to embark on the next stage of their studies and future careers. Thank you!

You will have noticed that I am a new face in The Hulme Link and the Principal has already mentioned my arrival in his update. I joined the school as Development Director in September 2020, and I have already had the pleasure of meeting many of you ‘virtually’. You have shared your memories of school and conveyed your willingness to remain connected, be involved and be supportive. I look forward to moving these relationships and collaborations forward apace in 2021 and beyond.

I share many of your recollections and sentiments as I was first introduced to Hulme in 1982/3 (I forget exactly when the entrance

exam was back then). It was a terrifying experience. I planned on failing the entrance exam so I could go to the local comprehensive with all my friends, but stepping onto the school grounds changed all that. Even then, at 10 or 11 years old, I knew that this was the place I wanted to be. I passed the exam and had an interview with the then Deputy Head of the Girls’ School, Miss Turner. I still remember some of her questions, and some of my answers, so powerful was the experience.

I also remember the joy of receiving the letter to say I was being offered a place. Luckily for me this was a time when the Assisted Places



Scheme existed, when children like me, whose families couldn't afford to pay fees, were offered 'free' places at independent schools supported by a state-funded scheme. I have never forgotten the opportunity I was given, an opportunity that

propelled me into a life where I had genuine choices. School gave me knowledge, tools and values that have served me well now for many decades. Even the lessons in mending a tear in fabric and how to correctly lay a formal dinner table have proved useful over the years (don't worry, we also did plug wiring and how to work out compound interest too). I took my Hulme experience and applied it at university, and never looked back.

When I returned to the North West to work at the University of Manchester after 20 years away working in fundraising and alumni engagement in various universities, I chose to return to Oldham to live and my children both attended Hulme - a much changed, and yet still fundamentally the same, school. My daughter left this year, my son in 2019.

Then the opportunity arose to join school professionally as Development Director, and so I feel almost as if I have come full circle. School has again provided me with an opportunity, this time to help students who remind me of myself in 1983. My role is to create more opportunities for alumni like you, past and present parents and other friends of school who want to support school and its pupils financially and in other ways.

The Assisted Places Scheme disappeared in 1997, but the need didn't go away. Independent schools raise funds from private individuals, trusts and foundations to create bursaries for pupils that need them. Social mobility is not an abstract concept for so many families in Oldham, it is a goal, and one that they and School want to see achieved by their children and grandchildren. There are young people who have so much potential, who would benefit from a Hulme education, but who's families, frankly, can't afford it.

I'm proud to be helping Hulme educate future generations irrespective of their backgrounds, by raising funds for bursaries. I'm proud to be working with Hulme alumni, parents and others to help create more moments of joy when that letter arrives with the offer of a place, a ticket for social mobility. And I'm proud to be helping alumni share their experience and expertise, especially when it provides pupils with a little social capital, broadens their horizons and raises their expectations of themselves.

Thank you for being a wonderful alumni community on whose shoulders our pupils stand. I look forward to meeting with and speaking to many of you in the next year.

Finding Our Alumni www.oldham-hulmeians.co.uk

We love to keep in touch with our Alumni, you are just as important to us now as you were in your school days. We have just less than 12,000 alumni listed on our database but sadly only around 50% of these names have postal addresses and even less have email addresses.

Register

As a former pupil of OHGS you are a member of our alumni community. Updating your details on Hulme Online is very easy, please visit: www.oldham-hulmeians.co.uk

Alternatively, you can always drop Sharon an email on development@ohgs.co.uk and she will be happy to update them for you.

Privacy

As a member your contact details are never publicised and your profile details (such as your city of residence) are only viewable by members who are logged in to Hulme Online. You can add/delete amend your data at any time, so you have full control over how visible your information is. Please do send us your feedback so that we can make it your site.



OHA Annual Membership

All our former students are considered to be part of the alumni family and we are keen to keep in contact with as many of you as possible.

We have therefore decided to cease collecting annual subscriptions for membership of the Oldham Hulmeians Association and are effectively extending Life Membership to all former students.

We hope you will continue to enjoy hearing from us. You may need to instruct your bank to cease making your annual payment to the OHA.

Maisie Horrocks & Charlie Chadwick

Head Girl & Head Boy 2020/21

Throughout my 7 years at Hulme there have been so many memorable moments. From performing as a 'Merry Murderess' in Chicago the musical, to almost winning the Sir Rhys Davies mock trial competition. Seeing the Northern Lights in Iceland, and walking through Times Square in New York, have all made my time at Hulme unforgettable.

It is very sad to think that this is my last year ever at Hulme and writing this message has made me think back to the open day in year 7. Listening to the head boy and head girl speech made me think 'maybe that could be me one day' and here I am! Although COVID 19 has made my head girl experience quite different than anyone else's, I love that I have been given the opportunity



to give back to the school and make some positive changes. The corona virus obviously has limited what we can do as a prefect team quite substantially but all of us are working around it as much as we can. For example, instead of the usual prefect introductory assembly, me and Charlie put together a video to show off our 'prefect superpowers' to help pupils get to know us, even if it was virtually!

Some of my aims for the next few months as head girl are to build on Hannah's (our previous head girl) aims to improve support for mental health throughout the school. I hope to be able to build stronger relationships between our school counsellors and pupils and hopefully, along with my prefect team, set up some fundraisers like bake sales and coffee mornings to donate the money to mental health charities such as MIND.

Along with the amazing extracurricular activities Hulme offers, what I think makes Hulme particularly special is the family atmosphere that comes across as soon as you enter the building. Walking down the corridor every teacher knows their students and every student is able to speak to each other, regardless of the year or the form they are in. I know my Hulme experience would not have been nearly as special if it wasn't for my amazing group of friends in my year and beyond.

I'd like to end by saying a huge thank you to everyone, students and teachers, who have made my time at Hulme so special and also good luck to everyone for the rest of this year and beyond.

Maisie Horrocks

It was with mixed feelings that I considered coming to Hulme seven years ago. On the one hand I was enthralled by the grand architecture and the persuasive speeches; I was imagining that, one day, I might appear in the show, or even become head boy. Yet the cynic in me was not fooled: we would never be able to afford the fees, and even if we could, someone like me would never fit in.

And so, seven years, four school productions, three D of E awards, and one very special badge later, it is with immense gratitude that I look back on that time. Gratitude for the generous bursary provision which has made my time here possible, and gratitude for all the people and opportunities which have made it unforgettable. If there is one thought which links generations of pupils, I like to think this is it: the Hulme dream, that you can arrive here a naive boy or girl, and leave as an adult, ready to take your place in the world.

It is also true that everybody's time here is different, and I doubt that any prefect team has had to face challenges such as ours. As Maisie says, what makes this school special is that, when walking down a corridor, you are never far from a friendly face. In 2020 however, we avoid corridors, and

cover our faces with masks. Social distancing has created major difficulties, but the strength of our community has meant that, with a little ingenuity, we have been able to overcome them.

Our team has been helping out at breaks and lunchtimes, doing duties to help with the smooth running of the school. Rest assured though that the power to hand out detentions hasn't gone to our heads. In addition, we have continued our ambassadorial role, delivering speeches and assemblies online. Over the next few months, my main aim is to ensure that the pupil voice is listened to, both through our school council, and brand new sixth form council.

As I write this article, it is sad to think that I should now be at the carol service at St Ann's church,

an event which has always heralded the coming of Christmas. It is only when events like this are cancelled that I realise just how large a part of my life the school has been. Yet I gain great comfort from the thought that, pupil or not, I will be able to return to St Ann's next year, and that, to paraphrase Rupert Brooke, there is some part of me that is forever Hulme. Thank you to everyone who has supported me over the last seven years, and good luck to year 11 and 13 this summer.

Charlie Chadwick

As we go to press Charlie has just received an offer from St Anne's College Oxford to read Classics. We are extremely proud of Charlie and his achievements.

Hulme Reunion for Class of '81

Judith Dewar (nee Ogden)
(OHGS 1972 - 1981)

It is astonishing to think that a year has passed since I placed an article in The Hulme Link magazine asking for the class of '81 pupils to contact me with the hope of a school reunion.

I have had responses from 80 pupils from the year, most are girls (62) but there is still time for the boys.

We have a provisional date in the diary to meet at school on **Saturday 8th May 2021**, (decided back in May 2020) but due to COVID and the lockdowns this date may have to change. However, a reunion at some point soon is a definite.

Several groups have already had mini reunions throughout last year when we were not in lockdown. Some photographs of these occasions are displayed here.

It has been a wonderful experience being able to reconnect after so long. We have a WhatsApp group of 53 members – communicating almost every day. I know many of us have found this a great lifeline during the lockdown, sending funny, comforting and topical messages as well as catching up on 40 years of life!

We have found some of our friends have moved around the world to Australia, New Zealand, France and Ireland.

We would love for this to be a re union of the whole year group.

So, if you have not done so already, please contact me via email on j.dewar@navigation-m.com and join the group.

Thank you!
Judith Dewar (Ogden)



2020 Manchester Reunion

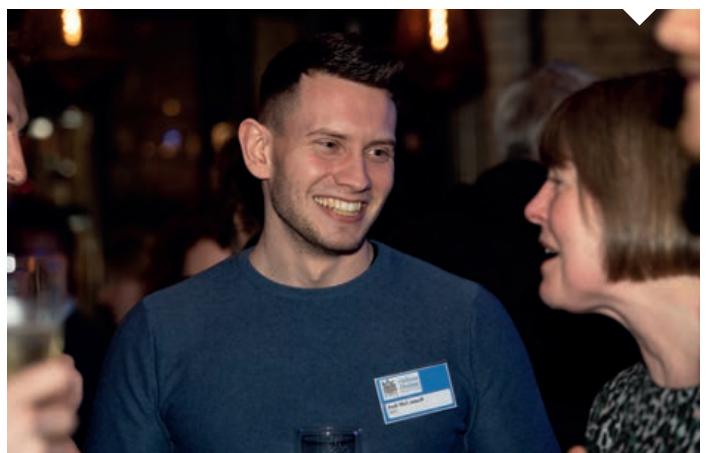


Thursday 13th February was sadly the only date in the OHGS reunion calendar in 2020. Little did we know on that Thursday night that only a few weeks later, our OHA dinner and London Reunion would be cancelled and socialising with fellow alumni would be on hold for the foreseeable future.

Manahatta was the venue last year for what proved to be another successful event of around 100 alumni catching up and enjoying great food and a few drinks.

As we go to print COVID has ensured that we cannot book any further reunion events at the moment. Please do make sure your details are up to date on Hulme Online and that way you will not miss any notifications about events in the future. Visit Hulme Online at www.oldhamhulmeians.co.uk





A Career in the RAF

Claire O'Grady (OHGS 1987 – 1998)

When Group Captain Claire O'Grady read a school post on Facebook about the CCF RAF cadet Fieldcraft training, it prompted her to get in touch. She commented "As an Old Girl who was at school before the Girls School could join the CCF, and now a serving officer in the RAF this is great to see!". Times have certainly changed since Claire left in 1998 and the RAF section of the CCF is now 80% girls, a fact she is clearly delighted with.

Not that an inability to join the CCF stopped Claire of course. She joined the Air Training Corps at 13 and the RAF sponsored her through her A levels with one of their Sixth Form Scholarships. Once she received her results, she left home and started her Initial Officer Training at RAF College Cranwell. She remembers this time with mixed feelings, "There wasn't really an understanding of women joining the military at the time. There was the usual league table of who was going to which university, and I felt that my choice was not a particularly supported career at school back then."

"There wasn't really an understanding of women joining the military at the time."

Hulme had been a big part of Claire's life, having joined Estcourt at seven years old, and leaving at 18, but the way in which she left to start a 'non-traditional' career left her feeling a little distant from school.



Claire remembers regularly updating her address with school whenever she moved home, and following the school on social media, but that was the extent of her alumni involvement. Never considering that her journey through life would be of interest to school or its current pupils.

But her chance comment on our Facebook page has opened up the rich story that is Claire's career.

She takes over the story from here.

"After completing my Initial Officer Training, I joined what was then the Administrative (Secretarial) Branch but is now the Personnel Support Branch, graduating as an Acting Pilot Officer in May 1999. This was the start of what has been the most amazing career. My service has seen me specialize predominantly in the Personnel and Welfare arena, although I have served in a couple of infrastructure and project management related tours.

My postings have taken me all over the UK, with one overseas posting in Cyprus (serving at some 9 different Stations) which for me is the highlight of the job! I've also been keen to do my part in overseas operations and 3 years after I joined the RAF, I was deployed to Kosovo supporting the arrival

of all troops (Army/RAF and Navy) into Theatre – as a young Flying Officer this was an amazing experience, spending the first 4 months of my life out of the UK away from family and friends.

Keen to do more overseas operations I deployed to Baghdad in Iraq in 2006, embedded with the Americans in their Corps HQ as a British Watchkeeper where I was responsible for reporting all kinetic activity (casualties and attacks) on the British Forces in the south of Iraq (Basra). After a couple of UK tours, I was promoted to Squadron Leader in 2010 and deployed to the Middle East in the UK's Expeditionary HQ, responsible for the Standards and Assurance of all Personnel and Infrastructure activity across our area of operations in that region.

A couple of tours later in 2015, I was extremely pleased to be informed that I'd been promoted to Wing Commander and also selected to undertake a full-time Masters in Defence Studies at the Joint Services Command and Staff College, Shrivenham on the Advanced Command and Staff Course. At the time, my husband and I had been married for 5 years and had a 2-year-old little boy. By chance my husband (a serving fast-jet pilot) had also been selected for the course, so my parents moved in to

help with the childcare which enabled me to focus on my studies.

"Keen to do more overseas operations I deployed to Baghdad in Iraq in 2006, embedded with the Americans in their Corps HQ as a British Watchkeeper where I was responsible for reporting all kinetic activity (casualties and attacks) on the British Forces in the south of Iraq (Basra)."

My dissertation title was 'The Framing of Sexual Violence as a 'weapon of war' will severely hinder the UN's ability to effectively deliver against the Comprehensive Strategy on Sexual Violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo', which was probably the most interesting piece of academic work I've ever undertaken.

Following the course, I went on to RAF Coningsby as Officer Commanding Base Support Wing, responsible for some 240 servicemen and women with a variety of outputs (catering/personnel/welfare/infrastructure/Padres/Dental/Police & Security).

Following this tour, I was deployed to Afghanistan for a 7 month tour as the Senior Advisor to the Heads of Personnel and Recruiting in the Afghan Army. I undertook daily road moves around Kabul, advising my Afghan counterparts (through the use of local interpreters) on how they could improve their processes and implement more efficient ways of doing business in order to assist the US mission



of making Afghanistan a place which could ably deliver its own security for the future. Without doubt this is the most rewarding job I have ever done and coming back to normal life and being a mummy again was quite a transition!

I was fortunate enough this year to find out I had been successful on the promotion board and am now a Group Captain, serving at HQ Air Command in Buckinghamshire as the Senior Air Staff Officer in Number 22 Group (first non-aircrew individual to fill this position which is a sign of changing times and opportunities being opened up to the plethora of branches). The Group is very broad and predominantly responsible for the delivery of Ground and Flying Training, but very aptly it also oversees the RAF Air Cadets which is where my journey started, having been a member of the Air Training Corps from being 13 to leaving school!"

You'd be forgiven if you feel exhausted after reading this whistle-stop tour of Claire's last twenty-two years. She appreciates it isn't for everybody. Balancing a challenging career in the



RAF, including months of deployment, with being a parent is something she relishes and talks about openly. Her son, she shares, takes it all in his stride and she cites the only downside is convincing her husband that her eclectic collection of Afghan pottery cannot go in the dishwasher.

Claire is extremely passionate about uniformed organisations for young people, whether they decide military life is for them or not, she thinks the life skills and variety of activities on offer to them is amazing and often play a large part in who they are.

You can hear more from Claire at our event on **8 March 2021, International Women's Day**, when she will be part of an illustrious panel of former pupils who will be sharing their thoughts and experiences of leadership and their careers after Hulme. The event will be accessible online, so wherever you are in the world, do please join us. For further details email development@ohgs.co.uk, or follow us on social media for updates.



Charity Begins at Hulme

David Chadwick (OHGS 1958 – 1962 approximately!)

I was a late starter at Hulme Grammar School. Having failed the 11-plus, I would continue my school life at Littlemoss Secondary Modern School, about two miles from my home in Droylsden. However, my parents persuaded me to study for the Entrance Examination for Hulme which I passed.

My contemporaries wondered why I had decided to travel "all the way to Oldham" to attend a "posh" school! I have to admit when putting pen to paper (or rather fingers to keyboard), my first thoughts were that, although the teachers (or Masters as they were called) were making efforts to offer me an education enabling me to step confidently on to the ladder of career success, what could they achieve with a reluctant, rather lazy pupil like me?

Well, my love for words must have been stimulated in English Language classes, for example, as this helped me progress in several jobs after leaving Hulme as I will explain later.

But there were also three words that made such a difference to my future.

"Oxfam is Coming" ... announced the large banner strung across the stairway leading down to the basement cloakroom and also, if my memory

serves me correctly, to the Woodwork room and Gym. Little did I know at the time that these three simple words would do so much to shape my career.

First hurdle? I had never heard the word Oxfam before! What or who was Oxfam?

Fortunately posters around the school soon explained everything. On one day, everyone was asked to miss lunch and donate the cost to support the work of this organisation working to relieve hunger in many corners of the world. Seemed a good idea to me. I could be a small part of saving the world!

Enthusiasm for supporting such a worthy cause grabbed me in much greater strength than algebra or chemistry or Latin! I had always been much more interested in current world affairs and general knowledge.

After leaving Hulme, I joined the Co-operative Wholesale Society (CWS) at their headquarters in Manchester, initially in the Postal Department as all new employees did.

Then as a junior in the Company Secretary's office where my love for words was quickly noticed and

I was regularly asked to research subjects for the Company Secretary's upcoming speeches.

As a result of restructuring following the appointment of a new CEO, I was later transferred to the Co-operative Bank, the powers-that-be having apparently identified my aptitude for figures as well as words. Thanks now to my Maths Master. For many, this would be a good move but I was bored and still wanted to save the world.

During this time, I carried out a great deal of voluntary work for Oxfam and made myself known (on numerous occasions!) to their personnel department. Persistence paid off and I was offered a position at their Head Office.

So from Hulme to Oxford - but not to the University.

My first responsibilities at Oxfam were dealing with the administration of Deeds of Covenant (now Gift Aid) and Standing Orders but I was soon asked to deal with important correspondence to major donors. Thanks again to Hulme's English Language lessons. Later I was appointed to Oxfam's trading subsidiary as Sales Office Manager dealing with the publication of their Christmas Catalogue and responsibility for the subsequent sale of cards

and gifts through the catalogue and major retail outlets.

After three years, I joined Help the Aged as an Appeals Organiser, working on local and major capital appeals in the Hertfordshire & Bedfordshire area.

In late 1974, I toured India over a period of six weeks visiting projects supported by Help the Aged and other aid agencies. I met so many dedicated people, including spending several days with Mother Teresa and her Sisters at the Missionaries of Charity in Calcutta.

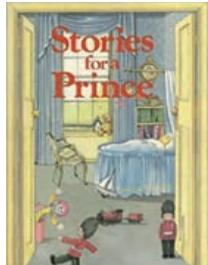
In 1977, I applied for a position with the Royal National Institute for the Blind (RNIB) which eventually led to my appointment as Head of National Appeals.

This involved responsibility for all UK fundraising, marketing arrangements with major companies and arranging events involving members of the Royal Family. My first experience was joining HRH The Princess Margaret in the Royal Box at the Royal Albert Hall at a Charity Performance by The Osmonds on 25th January, 1979.

Princess Margaret was President of the Sunshine Homes & Schools (a branch of RNIB) and readily agreed to attend a wide range of events - from Mozart Concerts to Greyhound Meetings - to raise funds for the organisation.

My major project was the publication of a book "Stories for a Prince". Following agreement with Diana Princess of Wales and her Private Secretary, we approached schools throughout the country

asking pupils to write a short bedtime story for the then 16-month-old Prince William.



The project was sponsored and enthusiastically supported by the H J Heinz company.

Fourteen stories were chosen from the thousands of entries and the book, published by Hamish Hamilton, was presented to the Princess of Wales by the young authors at a Reception at the Café Royal, London on 26th October, 1983.

It was a huge success raising substantial funds for RNIB and gaining national publicity in newspapers and on TV.

An audio cassette (remember those?) was also produced and promoted by Heinz. The stories were read by Ed Stewart and Nerys Hughes with music composed by Mike Batt and played by the London Philharmonic Orchestra.



Another major project I initiated involved Kellogg's, who launched an on-pack promotion involving Morecambe & Wise and which raised £100,000 for the Sunshine Fund through the Corn Flakes brand, the Sunshine Breakfast.

So, in conclusion, Hulme did shape my life, maybe not in the traditional sense but by encouraging my interest in English, Mathematics and charitable causes leading me to a challenging, fulfilling and successful career for which I am ever grateful.

P.S. For 17 years up until 2014, my wife, Elaine, and I took early retirement to live in western Turkey. Since then (up until the COVID-19 crisis) we have travelled the world as Ageing Nomads on a Budget with just one 7kg piece of hand luggage each. We have created a website detailing our travels prior to COVID.

www.ageingnomadsonabudget.com

In the early 1960's, I was fortunate to be able to join a school trip to Mallorca, staying in an hotel on the Paseo Marítimo in Palma.

An exciting trip at a time when most young people were looking forward to holidays in Blackpool or Colwyn Bay.

I wonder if Hulme also sparked my fascination for travel?

I like to think so.

My Hulme Days Remembered

**Tony Halliwell (OHGS 1972 – 1976 pupil
and 2005 – 2020 staff)**

I arrived at Hulme in January 1972 amid miners strikes, 3 day weeks and electricity being cut off at certain times.

Add to this, It was cold in 'the north' compared to the Fen Lands, people spoke funny (compared to my southern accent), travelling on a double decker bus for the first time, at least there were girls on the bus, one of whom I'd end up marrying. The syllabus was completely different, I'd never done Latin or Spanish and it was an all boys school!

Anyway, I got on with it and survived by the skin of my teeth, getting into the sixth form and going onto further education to become a teacher.

When I left in 1976 I didn't expect to be connected to Hulme again for no reason other than this was my eighth school. I did come across Hulme when I started teaching at Thornham St James and Roundthorn as we played hard ball cricket and I brought children to Hulme to play against Hulme Court on Big Side. I was always proud to tell the children that this was where I went to school.

After 23 years of working for Oldham Education I was becoming more disillusioned with the National Curriculum, testing children and all the new measures that had been brought in so when Roundthorn wanted a voluntary redundancy after a poor OFSTED, I volunteered, much to the worry of Sue, my wife.

Anyway I bought a new Honda CBR 600 motorbike, did some supply work and carried on. I then got a phone call out of the blue from David Washington saying there was a position coming up at Hulme Court and would I like to apply. He had thought me a very fair person in the cricket matches we'd played. I didn't get the job; a certain Matt Turner was appointed. In retrospect, it was the right decision. I was disappointed but that's the way it goes. About a week later Mr Washington rang again to say Bury Grammar needed a teacher and I ticked all the boxes. About the second week at Bury I rang Sue and said 'This is fantastic!' The boys were doing cross country. I was timing them going past my allotted position which was right next to the East Lancs Railway. Not only was I getting paid for doing a job I loved, but I could also watch steam trains shunting carriages around. Fantastic!

Mr. Washington rang me again in the summer of 2004 to say there was another position coming up at Hulme Court if I was interested. This time, with a bit more effort, I got the job.

Starting in September 2005 was a proper eye-opener. This was what I'd always envisaged teaching was about. The children were responsive. The parents backed you up and no National Curriculum. You taught certain subjects. The children had specialist teachers for specialist subjects which I'd not seen in the mainstream.

"This was what I'd always envisaged teaching was about. The children were responsive. The parents backed you up and no National Curriculum."

Mr Jones used to come down to Hulme Court on a Thursday morning with his gown on to take the assembly, which always impressed the boys. There was much jovial banter between Mrs Maitland at Estcourt and Mr Washington at Hulme Court, especially the swimming gala. Times do change and Hulme has had to become more efficient, but it was lovely to have the morning newspaper and proper coffee ready for you when you came into work. I was also surprised that quite a few members of staff were still teaching from when I'd left nearly 30 years previously. Which made me think it must be a good place to work.



The things I miss about the 'old days' are staff meetings once a term where you discussed the Christmas production, (Autumn Term), Easter Concert (Spring Term) and Speech Night (Summer Term). Any other business was discussed as you went along. One of my favourite experiences was going to Arthog. Anybody who's been will know that this is an experience, whether you were a parent or child.

Sports day is always a grand affair and well run by the P.E. dept. I'll miss parents cornering me on a Friday night in Uppermill. It's always a pleasure to speak to them.

I'll also miss lunchtimes at main school when you can see staff from other departments, have a natter about life and your own family. I have Janet and Sharon to thank for that. I'll miss the ladies on the front desk and the office who are always smiling and always helping me out when I'm not sure who to contact. Strangely enough I don't think Hulme has changed a great deal since the 70's. It has evolved, but in a 'Hulme' sort of way.

The hall is fantastic and I'm always proud to show family, friends and fellow teachers from visiting schools, around the building.

Finally, the friends you get at Hulme tend to be friends for life. I never would have thought from those dark, dismal days when my parents first dropped me off, that I would marry the girl on the school bus (Sue Watson) who I thought 'she looks nice!' or that I'd be going on motorbiking holidays with Paul Taylor, Steven Hill and Scott Cresswell. We were all in the same class, along with Garry Dawes, Michael Fort and Tony Kershaw plus many more also Ex Hulme who I see regularly.





Bursaries Boosted by Generous Gift from Alumni

Father and son, local business owners, Robin and Jonny Eglin, recently boosted the Assheton Bursary Fund with a large gift, equal to funding 2 pupils for 5 years.

They were motivated by a wish to help bright children from less advantaged backgrounds to attend the School and enjoy everything it has to offer, just as four generations of the Eglin family have done.

When Robin's father, Ralph Rothwell Eglin, attended Hulme in the 1920s, he could not have known that he was beginning a long-lasting, multi-generational relationship with the School. He was followed by his sons Tony and Robin in the 1950s and 60s, grandchildren Jonny and Sally in the 1980s and 90s and now his great-grandchildren (Jonny's daughters) are current pupils at the school. Ralph Senior also went on to be a Governor of the School, including a time as Treasurer and also Bursar.

The family business, OMC Motor Group Ltd, a franchised Ford and Kia dealer, is well known to many in the local area. It has 2 sites in Oldham as well as branches in Rochdale and Accrington, and employs 170 people. Robin is the Chairman and Jonny is Managing Director. We have talked a lot this year about supporting our local communities and the Eglin gift is a prime example of this.

On behalf of the pupils that the Assheton Bursary Fund supports, we are extremely grateful to alumni, parents and other friends of the School who give so generously. Every gift, large and small, makes a significant difference to the School and all its pupils.

William Robertson “Joe” Scott, 1919 – 2000

Taught at OHGS from 1947 until his retirement in 1980

Joe Scott taught at Hulme from 1947 until his retirement in 1980, during which time he became an admired and respected influence on generations of his pupils. This appreciation of his life is written by one of them – Peter Davies (Hulme Court & OHGS 1954-65).

It is said that in the life of every schoolchild there is one inspirational teacher, and in my case without question this was William Robertson Scott, known to his colleagues as Bill, but to all of us he taught as “Joe”.

Joe came to Hulme in 1947 as Assistant Master in the History Department, his first appointment after completing his training as a teacher. Like many of his generation his university career had been much interrupted by the Second World War, a History degree course at Leeds University having been started in 1938, abandoned on enlistment in the army in 1939, and only resumed on his demobilisation in 1946.

In between he had served with distinction, first in Norway, then as part of General Slim’s Fourteenth Army – in which he fought at the bitter battle of Imphal in North East India which halted and then reversed the Japanese advance, and subsequently participated in the victorious British advance down the Irrawaddy valley to re-take Rangoon – and finally in Germany after the end of the European war. Originally commissioned as a Second Lieutenant, he had been promoted to Captain and then Major along the way.

I first encountered Joe in the Lower Fifth, where he taught me History. Largely because of him the subject quickly became my favourite and one of the few in which I was confident of obtaining a pass in the O level examinations at the end of the following year. He was by then in his early forties, a stocky man of medium height with curly reddish-fair hair and a trim moustache.

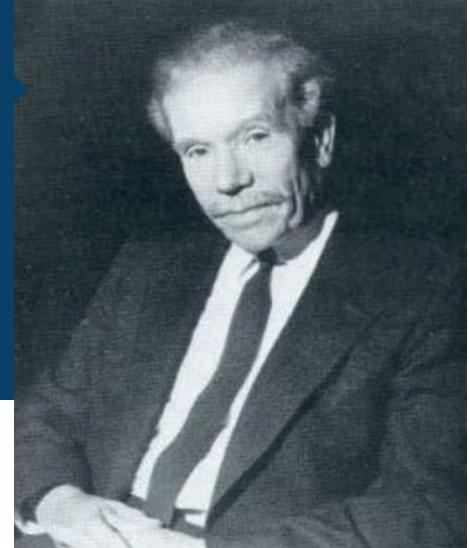
Quietly spoken, and with a nice self-deprecating sense of humour, he had a natural air of authority, to the extent that he had no trouble keeping order and yet was the only member of staff at Hulme I can remember who never punished anyone. The respect the boys had for him was no doubt enhanced by the fact that he was known to have had a “good war”. So far as he was concerned, no

doubt a few unruly Lancashire schoolboys left him entirely unfazed after the rigours of the campaign in Burma.

In the Sixth Form I was part of Joe’s classes for British History (1815-1914) and General Studies. Not least of the attractions of the Sixth Form, compared to my years in the Middle and Lower Schools, was the easier and more mature relationship that existed between boys and Masters, and Joe set the tone for this, encouraging active participation in discussion and honing our capacity for self-study, in readiness for A levels and then university. For the first time I began to look forward to attending school each day, with his lively History classes one of the main attractions.

If Joe was a very good teacher of History, his handling of General Studies was superb. It was entirely down to him that Hulme took that subject so seriously, at a time when universities were still distinctly sniffy about it. Looking back, I can see that his aim was to turn us into informed citizens, equipped to participate fully in civic life. To that end he led by example in providing us all with a thorough grounding in Science, the Arts, and Current Affairs. Through his example several us began to make regular trips to the Library Theatre, Manchester, where plays by authors ranging from Shakespeare to Jean Anouilh formed the basis of animated discussions in class the next day. I also recall him being a passionate early advocate for the European Economic Community (EEC – the forerunner of the EU), even before the then Prime Minister Harold Macmillan had decided that it would be right for the UK to apply to join. He once intimated to us that he had seen things in Europe after the end of the war that he would have preferred not to have witnessed. This seemed to have fired him with a belief in peaceful harmonisation across the continent, so that future generations would not have their lives torn apart in the way that those of our parents and grandparents had been.

During his time at Hulme, Joe was instrumental in organising and improving the School Library, and he was also an enthusiastic supporter of the Literary and Debating Society, for which I became Secretary in my final year. Attendance at these lunchtime sessions was open to the whole school and, though it was entirely voluntary, they



On Joe’s retirement in 1980, his old friend and colleague Hugh Shuttleworth wrote of him “when old boys return to the school, they always ask about Joe Scott and they invariably say ‘He taught me a lot about values.’ That says a great deal about their affection for him and his integrity as a man”.

attracted large numbers across all age groups, especially if the weather was awful! Under Joe’s influence we were all encouraged to attempt to persuade our audiences by rigorous adherence to rational, fact-based argument, and to eschew ad hominem attacks on our opponents. Would that more people in public life today followed his advice.

Having just scraped into the Sixth Form in 1962, three years later I found myself heading off to St John’s College, Cambridge – something that I strongly doubt would have happened without Joe’s influence, and for which I shall be eternally grateful to him. He retired in 1980 and died in 2000, his wife Betty – who taught Modern Languages at Hulme Girls – having passed away some years previously.

On Joe’s retirement in 1980, his old friend and colleague Hugh Shuttleworth wrote of him “when old boys return to the school, they always ask about Joe Scott and they invariably say ‘He taught me a lot about values.’ That says a great deal about their affection for him and his integrity as a man”.

I’ll second that.

By Peter Davies

20th March 2020

The Day Learning Changed

Friday 20th March 2020 will go down in history at Oldham Hulme Grammar School as the day that learning as we know it changed.

Fortunately, your old school is a 'Google Reference School' which means we've been recognised for our outstanding use of technology to drive positive learning outcomes for students. We began our 1:1 devices programme back in September 2015 with each student using a Chromebook to support and enhance their learning. We also regularly share advice, tips, best practice and support other schools with their use of Google Suite; we were very busy doing this for other schools, back in March and April last year, whilst they got their distance learning up and running.

"What has become abundantly clear is the high quality provision OHGS are maintaining for their pupils. Keep up the good work and please circulate my thanks and gratitude to all staff."

– Year 9 Parent

In October 2019, the school received the highest possible inspection grade from the Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) of 'double excellent', at the time they commented that "Pupils' use of ICT in school is excellent" finding technology being expertly utilised in all subjects both in the classroom and at home and highlighted a well-supported culture of using ICT as a tool to strengthen learning. Who knew what lay ahead of us at the time?

We were already well set up therefore for remote learning when the first lockdown came into force back in March last year. Our teachers and students were already very familiar with Google Suite for Education, and learning remotely and collaboratively through the Google classroom. Our director of e-learning, Mr Mark Jones, commented at the time that "We have been preparing for this for five years!" So, whilst the changes came as a shock to us as much as anyone else, our whole school community already had the skills and experience to make the most of distance learning.

"You have been absolutely outstanding with the way, as a school, you have dealt with this absolute wartime like situation. I cannot thank you enough"

– Year 6 & 9 Parent

In common with many other schools this has been some of the most valuable in-service training our teachers have received in their careers. Teachers have had to come up with new and imaginative and engaging ways for getting their message across via the remote classroom. Perhaps more challenging with some of our younger children, but children as young as 3 have been able to access and participate in real time online learning activities.

"The pastoral and academic needs of individual children have been prioritised, in a combination of both recorded and live lessons, to stimulate

and enhance their home learning. The children were able to share experiences with their friends, communicate with their teachers and above all have a sense of 'school normality' during such unprecedented times."

Our children have enjoyed being able to interact with their peers as well as their teachers. G Suite facilitates collaborative work and, 'live' lessons via Google Meets, allow children to share their ideas as well as providing important opportunities for them to interact with their friends in a classroom atmosphere. Remote assemblies, form time, even extra-curricular clubs, have allowed our children to still feel part of a thriving school community despite not physically being in the actual school building. Pastoral support, as well as academic progress, was a key element of our online provision and staff / pupil relationships have remained strong throughout, it is clear that the students have appreciated the efforts their teachers have gone to on their behalf.

Our students coped remarkably well with really high levels of engagement throughout the lockdowns, and through blended learning where groups of students have need to self-isolate. In an online survey 170 pupils responded to questions about their distance learning. Maths, Biology and Geography were listed as the subjects which had provided the best online experiences, and 62% said they felt more in control of their learning at home. The most popular teaching technique was listed as "explainer videos from Hulme staff".

"Thank you for all your hard work... it's been fantastic, we couldn't ask for more"

– Year 7 Parent

As we go to press we are in the middle of a second schools closure.

Learning through a Pandemic – By Palvi, Year 8



Palvi

This year has been very different for everyone. It has definitely been different but it also has been a time where we have learnt to care for and protect others.

The start of the year was difficult for teachers and students. We had to get our heads around all these new rules and learn to adapt quickly. Many new rules were put in place and I think the school has coped really well

to make sure it was as easy as possible for people to keep safe. I think the school has also handled all the unexpected cases of COVID-19 very well by sending people home as soon as possible.

Although teachers and students have been off and we were not at school for some of last term, I feel as if I was still able to learn and understand what I was learning. I'm sure anyone can agree that learning during this pandemic has been difficult as we haven't been in the school building for some time and teachers have also been off for a while so we have had to adapt to being more independent with our learning.

There have been lots of changes this year such as having to wear face masks, sanitizing and sticking to designated areas when inside and outside. Wearing a face mask doesn't really cause a problem because I know it is to keep everyone safe and I like the fact that we have been assigned play zones outside because it means that I get to know more people and spend time with others. Distance learning has been difficult because the teacher is not in front of the class explaining what to do. Distance learning has taught me to be independent and think for myself. It has also been hard because none of your classmates are around you and you have to work on your own.

Mailbag

Throughout the year I get snippets of information from our alumni - here is a selection of some of them. Please do keep emailing your news to: development@ohgs.co.uk



Steve Kaye OHGS 1980 - 1987

Steve left OHGS in 1987. Having enjoyed social sciences and economics at school, and taking inspiration from teacher Terry Sheer, he went on to study retail marketing at Manchester Metropolitan University, a course which gave him a fantastic foundation for the career he was about to embark on.

Having joined HiB as the company's first field sales representative, after a chance conversation with company founder Warren Ginsberg, he has watched a once fledgling company expand to an international operation with a strong reputation for quality and customer service.

After three decades of growth and development, leading bathroom supplier HiB is now a respected brand in the industry. This year marks the company's 30th anniversary, an occasion made all the more special thanks to HiB's recent recognition as a winner of a Queen's Award for Enterprise in the Innovation category.



Over the years, Steve's role has expanded to cover a number of key operational areas, including quality assurance, marketing, product development and sourcing suppliers. He was appointed the company's first director in 1998 and has been fundamental to many of HiB's important milestones such as the expansion into new buildings, the launch of the new HiB Novum bathroom furniture range and the company rebrand in 2017.

Now as HiB's Marketing and QA Director, Steve is responsible for a number of departments, working across HiB's head offices in New Southgate, London and its 85,000sqft distribution site in Tamworth. Congratulations Steve on your successful career.

David Hindle

(OHGS 1951 - 1957)



David Hindle

I was at OHGS from 1951 - 1957 and still remember my time there very well. I spent the whole of my working life in Agriculture. Soon after leaving Hume I went to Edinburgh School of Agriculture and graduated from there after two years practical farming. I worked in the agricultural seed business in the USA and Europe, specialising in sugar beet seed breeding and marketing in those countries in the world that grow the crop. I retired from work in 2006 and will shortly move with my wife to Northamptonshire to be nearer our daughter and, hopefully, get a house with a smaller garden!

Tony Snowden

OHGS 1965 - 1972

I attended from 1965 -1972 during which time my favourite Master was Karl Hearne.

One of the other characters was the woodwork Master "Nobby" Clarke about whom there was a story that he played for Glasgow Rangers in his youth. I recall that one full term we spent making a pencil sharpener which consisted of a small block of wood to which was attached a strip of sandpaper. Perhaps a good example of a single use tool!

My biggest disappointment at school was scoring a hat trick on "Big Side" in a School XI selection match and still not being picked for the Team. I never forgave T.E.Sanders for that!

After leaving Hulme I pursued a career in Law and worked in Local Government for a total of 20 years and the rest in Private Practice.

Perhaps my biggest claim to fame was attending the 1966 World Cup Final by virtue of a ticket given to me by a former work colleague at Oldham Town Hall. Despite not being a Manchester United fan I also attended the 1968 European Cup Final at Wembley having been driven there by my former school pal William Day Hitchen who also acquired a ticket for me.

Retirement now being spent in the Lake District but still a frequent visitor to Oldham during the Rugby League season as I'm a season ticket holder at Oldham RLFC.

Great memories of my time at Hulme



Steve Round

OHGS 1968 - 1979

Some of you may remember an interesting article from Steve Round (OHGS 68-79) in last year's Hulme Link that detailed his journey from leaving OHGS to his pivotal role in cloud based banking. Below Steve updates us on his latest role.

As part of my commitment to change I have recently been invited on the board of Centenary Bank. Banks are not all the same

As we go through major change to our lives many people will find themselves requiring support from banks -which to date has proved sketchy at best – questioning the role that banks perform. It is the same across the world BUT I have been lucky enough to be involved in a global change in banking - Global Alliance Banking on Values (www.gabv.org). These are 60 banks and growing around the world who believe in Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) with many building on the people, planet and profit criteria.

Whether we like it or not we rely on many aspects of financial services and as such it needs to change! I have been Chair at Ecology Building Society for 6 years where we focus on building a greener society and have been for over 40 years – which has led to me being appointed a director this year to an amazing bank – Centenary Bank – the second largest in Uganda.

A member of the Global Alliance Banking on Values it was founded on the principle of supporting rural farmers providing micro finance and Agri finance. It now has some 2m customers and every lending and every strategic decision is based on its core values. This has meant lending that traditional banks may have rejected – but the bad debt rate is substantially lower than market norms. Many decisions have been made on local and personal knowledge using both traditional lending tools but also innovative use of Fintech ensuring good decisions.

The Pandemic has meant that technology change in financial services has moved at a much faster pace across UK and Europe than would have happened without it – I know as a founder of a business that builds cloud based banking platforms- with the need for better more efficient banking platforms this has major benefits to the customer and the banks processes but we need to be careful that we don't take the humanity out of financial services

In the 8 months I have been on the board I have been very impressed with the mix of technology and human interaction in supporting farmers and other customers something perhaps we need to look at how we in the banking industry can be more values driven.



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David Brierley OHGS 1972 – 1979

I have started a new role as the Corporate Sponsorship Manager for the restoration of Rochdale Town Hall with a view to making it more accessible to visitors and the local community.

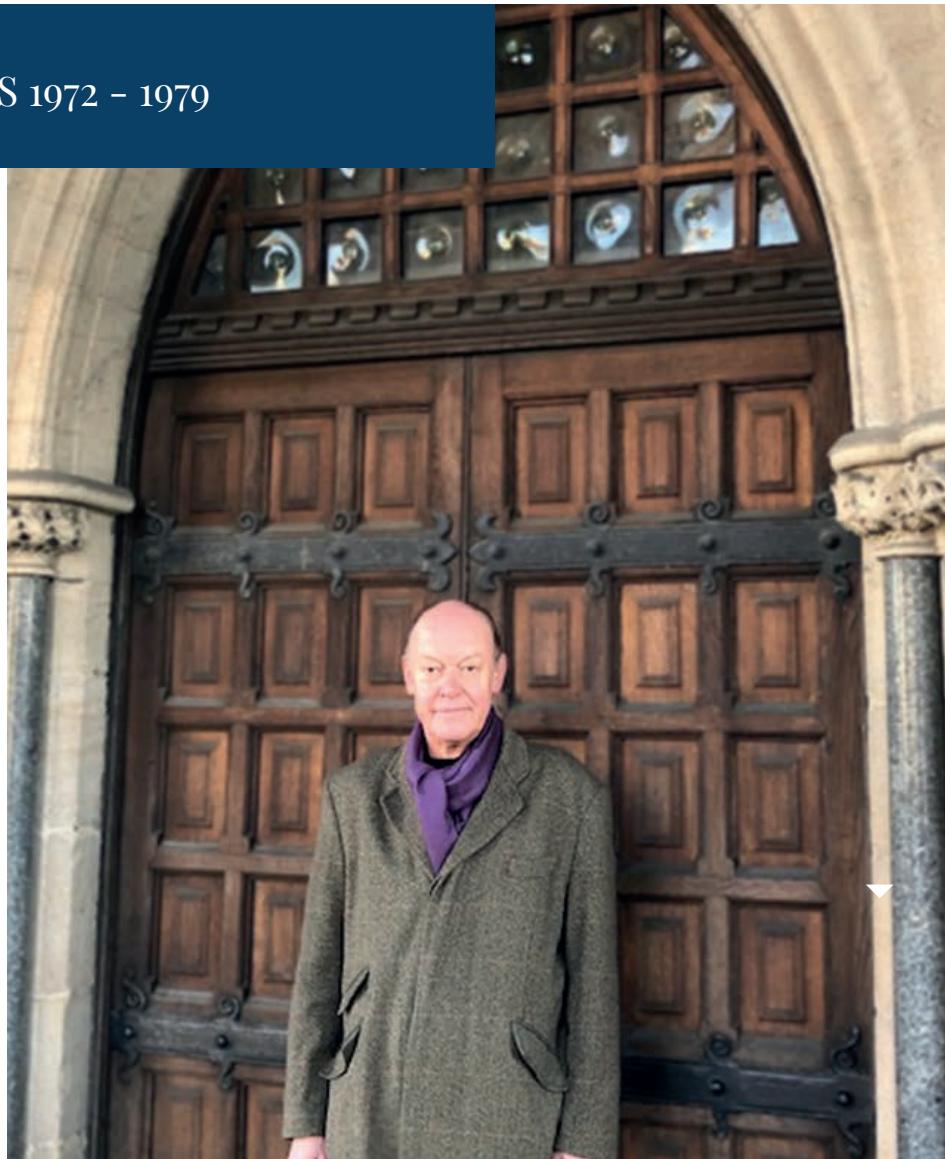
I remember that many of my contemporaries travelled to Hulme from Rochdale and Littleborough. As they may not be aware of the project, I thought an article in Hulme Link could help to raise awareness of the ambitious plans for their home town.

The restoration of Rochdale's magnificent Town Hall is as much about the community as it is bricks, mortar and historic wood paneling. In 2023 the citizens of Rochdale Borough and beyond will be able to wander the wood-paneled halls and ornate staircases of the town's magnificent Town Hall and see history unfold before them. So far, plans to fully restore the building and surrounding square remain on track, despite the coronavirus pandemic. The Grade I listed building closed in December 2020, with work starting in January 2021. It will reopen again in 2023 as a world class visitor attraction drawing people from across the UK and beyond, as well as a centre for the local community, with an opening event and a new programme of activities.

Though 2023 might seem a long time away the RDA will be building momentum for the reopening right through the restoration phase.

A dedicated website and social media will keep the community updated on the progress of the works. There is also a plan to introduce construction tours for interested members of the public, who will be able to witness the ongoing restoration first hand.

At the end of it all, the success of the project will be measured by the level of community engagement and visitor numbers. Weddings, festivals and regular community events will be housed in the spacious and grandiose surroundings, offering everyone the chance to be inspired by one of the UK's most important Victorian buildings. Easier access and better facilities will ensure the building can be enjoyed by every member of the community.



If this is something you are interested in supporting, donations may be made through Rochdale Development Agency: www.investinrochdale.co.uk or alternatively contact me on: da.brierley@icloud.com



Julie Thomas

(nee Adamson) OHGS 1969 - 1975

I thought I would send in a small piece as friends from my years at Hulme have just posted photographs on Facebook of our production of 'Peter Pan'- I played Captain Hook. No boys involved then, just those of us with strong voices playing the male roles. I remember I had a large meat hook stuffed up my sleeve.

Fast forward about 45 years and I'm still very involved in dressing up and playing other characters. I am a founding member of Katikati Theatre here in NZ, where I write, direct and act. I'm currently directing a family pantomime I have co-written, called 'The Orange Cone Road', a parody of 'The Wizard of Oz'. My former English teacher, Mrs Cartmell (who once told me she was born in Christchurch, NZ coincidentally) would be proud of me!

For fun, I impersonate the Queen, writing and performing customised speeches for special birthdays, anniversaries, weddings etc. I once appeared at a function held in a Clubhouse beside a golf course with large picture windows. We played a very realistic sound track of a helicopter landing as the guests were told a special guest was arriving by helicopter- there were a lot of craned necks as diners peered out of the window to see the helicopter land! It all has to be 'top secret' so I have done a lot of changing in bathrooms, cleaning cupboards, and toilets plus a lot of fibbing as to why I might be a guest at the party.

It is great to see that pupils at Hulme continue with the pleasure of live theatre which was fostered in me during my years at school.

Peter Sellers

OHGS 1942 - 1948

I have read with interest the Hulme Link and notice that you invite old – in my case very old – ex pupils to send in any items of interest... Here goes:

- I joined Hulme as a fee paying pupil in 1942 in prep 3 and left in 1948 to join local contractors George Dew and Co Ltd as Assistant Office Boy and, 64 years later, in 2012 wrote a history of the company at the request of Barbara Corfield, daughter of the founder, a copy of which should be in the Hulme library along with another book I wrote, the first ever written on the subject, concerning the History of Victorian Dumps and Paper Weights.
- Anyone around the school at that time will remember I had a severe stammer which I still possess... I was never asked a question in class during all my years at Hulme...there was not enough time in the school day for my reply!
- You may be amused to learn that I was informed by the King of Tonga that my Dew book resides in the Tongan Royal Library by reason of the fact that Dew constructed the first ever shipping harbour for the Friendly Isles.
- I eventually gained the position of Chief Quantity Surveyor at Dew until I left after 59 years to join Lloyds Underwriters remaining with them for 5 years until I left to form my own company Little Hill Developments Ltd – I retired at the age of 83 in 2015.
- I lectured for 5 years at University of Manchester on construction matters even though I was "kicked out" of the same University after gaining my Inter B.Sc tech.... resulting in eight years of night school studies – how stupid can one be!! Amazingly I never stammer giving lectures or high profile talks or interviews such as the occasion of my presidency of the Old Boys' Association.
- I remember many names mentioned in The Hulme Link from my many years serving on the Old Boys Council.
- My main reason for writing is to comment on the article "memories of a Guernsey Boy" – I too remember well the presence of the Guernsey Grammar School – two boys stand out, a good friend of mine Alan Guppy and Barry Stone who I remember having suffered the indignity of a public beating in the hall at the hands of HB Shaw.
- HB Shaw had followed the hallowed headmaster Mr Pickford, who retired in 1931 and HBS took up his post in 1932 (incidentally the year I was born) after HBS had married his wife who was previously Miss Joyce M S de la Rue.



Mailbag

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Barbara Shackley (Clegg) OHGS 1942 - 1952

Life has changed enormously since I left the "Halls of Hulme". It was in 1952 that I left for the last time taking my school beret off outside the school, This dastardly action would normally have resulted in severe penalties!!!

I entered the Halls of Hulme in 1942, when I was 9 years old. I lived in Rochdale and travelled every day on the bus on Oldham Road to Chamber Road. The bus fare was one half penny to the boundary and then three half pennies on the Oldham side, thus costing two old pence.

In 1942, the war was still raging. We wore gym slips, navy knickers and knee socks and were allowed to wear our own summer frocks with white socks in the summer term. As time went on we had frocks made of the school material and in the sixth form we were allowed to wear navy skirts but still wore white socks. We would have been sent home if we wore makeup and I was once sent home as my coat was mid blue and not navy. We would have been given many conduct marks if caught eating in school uniform.

In spite of these rules, I enjoyed my time at Hulme. During the war it was difficult to find suitable teachers, our Art teacher was quite old and although Chemistry was on the syllabus, there was no-one to teach Physics. Our History teacher was from Rochdale and she was great fun although slightly unusual. She and the Geography teacher visited me here at home in the 1970's. I went to Nottingham University to study Social



Barbara third from the left on the front row

Administration and Psychology and eventually ended up teaching children with dyslexia in a junior school, very convenient having three children.. Since retiring I have been very active in the Victorian Society, attempting to save C19th buildings from demolition,—only with some success!!!

I made many friends at school, many living in Saddleworth and unfortunately some have now died. I still see two of them when we can!!



Ann Deamer (Jones), Barbara Shackley (Clegg) and Barbara Dakin (Whalley) in 2017

Keep in touch, we love to hear from you

Forward your email address to
development@ohgs.co.uk

Tel: 0161 630 6181 (Sharon)

Email: development@ohgs.co.uk

Web: www.ohgs.co.uk

Hulme Online www.oldham-hulmeians.co.uk

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Lives Remembered

Alan Scott Thornley 1955 - 2020



OHGS 1967 - 1974

Alan Thornley died on 8 October 2020, peacefully in his sleep at the age of 64.

Alan joined Hulme in 3Y in 1967 when he was living in Greenfield. He then went to study Geography at the University of Wales, Aberystwyth where he met his wife Gill. His studies then took him to Liverpool University and the Master of Civic Design Planning course, he would later go back to the university regularly as a guest lecturer to the Civic Design Department on the MPlan course.

Alan's planning career saw him working for Hereford & Worcester, Surrey and Kent County Councils prior to moving to Chester in 1998 when he was appointed County Planning Officer for Cheshire. He was the youngest ever County Planning Officer for Cheshire and he was also the last, taking early retirement when the County was divided into East and West Cheshire.

During his time in Surrey he lived in Thames Ditton where both Julian Smith and Richard Heptonstall, who both went to junior school with Alan and started at Hulme at the same time, also lived. Alan and Gill's three children, Rachel, Tom and Ben, grew up and went to school with Julian and Richard's families.

In 2009 Alan set up Civitas Planning which would later employ Rachel, Endaf (Rachel's husband) and Ben who all followed Alan with careers in planning.

One significant project that Alan was involved in was the European Garden Heritage Network (EGHN) a body which Alan became Chairman of in 2003. This work became a large part of Alan and Gill's life and very firm friendships were created with many of the EGNH partners across Europe. In a tribute to Alan the EGNH said: "Alan shaped the EGNH in a special way with his extraordinary

personality, great expertise and personal passion ... his voluntary commitment to the EGNH has inspired people throughout Europe to take an interest in gardens, parks, green infrastructure and cultural landscapes."

Alan was an Oldham Athletic season ticket holder and went to matches with Tom and Freddie, Alan's first of four grandchildren. Cycling and family holidays in France in recent years probably brought Alan much more pleasure than Latics' performances!

Alan will be missed by family, friends and colleagues who all treasure fond memories of time spent with him ... he was great fun to be with and a caring and proud husband, father and grandfather.

Lives Remembered

Simon Cummings 1977 - 2020



OHGS 1984 - 1995

Simon (Si) attended Hulme Prep from 1984 - 1988, then went on to complete his GCSEs and A-Levels at the main school from 1988 - 1995.

During his time at Hulme, he was a regular "Sport Billy", involved in athletics, running, cricket and his main passion - football. He represented the school from the age of 11 up until 6th form, where he played on the right wing with weekly regularity for the 1st and 2nd XI. The annual school trips to the mountains also built on his love of skiing.

Sport was always a key focus in Si's life, both in and out of school, and he continued playing football when he left Oldham, as well as playing golf to a high standard.

After Hulme, Si first attended Nottingham University to study law, but then changed direction and headed to Newcastle University where he trained as a pharmacist.

Once qualified, he interspersed his time dispensing medicine with ski seasons, spending numerous winters in Val D'isere, Meribel and St Anton.

Towards the end of his 20's and into his 30's he developed a rare condition called CIDP, which affected his movement and balance. This was a real blow, and stopped him from enjoying both his football and skiing for a prolonged period.

It was a very tough time, mentally and physically, and challenged his resilience. With a large amount of determination, and despite numerous set-backs, he continued to fight back against the condition. Although he never really managed to play football again, he got back on two planks and hit the slopes on many a winter across the Alps, and particularly in Courcheval with his sister and niece.

Si's recovery really did confound the specialists, and he pushed the boundaries of what CIDP sufferers could do – taking on many physical challenges, hiking, mountaineering and generally living a very active and physical life. Twice he took his pilots exams with a view to becoming a commercial airline pilot, a career path which had always been his dream, but his illness and concerns about a possible relapse meant that this dream never became a reality.

“We all need a Simon in our lives”

It was during this period that Si met his future wife Lucy at the popular Hulme pub in Greenfield, the Farrars (where many a young romance began). The pair married in May 2014 and with a shared passion for travelling were regularly out of the country when not at home, with their beloved pooch, in Didsbury.

In June 2020, after a short period of uncomfortable symptoms, Si received a terminal cancer diagnosis which came as a terrible shock to his family and

friends. Tragically, he passed away on the 18th July, just a month after his 43rd birthday.

Having now entered our 40's, our childhood friendship group of 12 has seen many ups and down, as one would expect. The support network from a peer group formed more than 30 years ago at Hulme has been invaluable, and Si was a large part of this. His genuine empathy and concern, coupled with an irreverent humour, off-the-wall jokes and formidable ability to accurately recall

comical events and TV catchphrases from 20 years ago meant that Si could always drag you out of the emotional doldrums. It's accurately summed up by his work colleagues from the MRI who said "We all need a Simon in our lives".

Si was one of my oldest friends, part of a close-knit group who have stayed in touch since the halcyon days of bowl haircuts, Big Jim and the Lower Hall.

His genuine empathy and concern, coupled with an irreverent humour, off-the-wall jokes and formidable ability to accurately recall comical events and TV catchphrases from 20 years ago meant that Si could always drag you out of the emotional doldrums.

We played football, went on ski trips, went to Butterflies nightclub, travelled around America, shared a house together, skied and generally did all the stuff mates do.

To say that every one of us, his family and friends from later life have been devastated by his passing would be an understatement. There was a lot of life yet to be lived, and a lot of good times to be had. A huge hole has been left in our lives, but we will all endeavour to remember his passion for life, travelling, friends and family - and try not to sweat the small stuff.

Sam Morgan (OHGS Class of 1995)



Lives Remembered

Jo Coulson 1977 - 2020

Left OHGS 1995

Jo, left Hulme and went to Leeds University where she stayed for 4 years doing a BSc in Pharmacology and gaining her Masters before joining Unilever in Bedford.

She soon realised that to do the sort of research she wanted to do she needed her PhD, so left and studied for 3 years at Manchester University doing research into osteoporosis. She had a few jobs before finally settling at Perkin Elmer as a Field

Application Scientist, a job she loved. Very much a career girl, she travelled the world doing her job before she was sadly taken ill in Feb '18. She fought a very rare disease bravely but sadly lost her battle on 20/3/20.



Rez Chowdhury 1967 - 2020



Left OHGS 1986

Rez was a gentle and fun loving man, attended Hulme from the Prep until 1986. After leaving Hulme he attended Aberdeen University and became Practice manager at the Chowdhury Medical Practice.

In his spare time he worked as a steward at Old Trafford and the Etihad football stadiums.

Happy school memories of Baz (nickname) on the Borth Biology trip, his rat dissection was hilariously legendary. His magazine collection was extensive and was shown to Headmaster Dave Ward.

A regular attender at the OHA dinner and Manchester reunion.

Rez passed away suddenly on a holiday in Bangladesh and is buried next to his father.

You will be missed by all your Hulme friends

Roy Driver

Left OHGS 1961 | 22/7/1944 - 12/12/2020

Ann Shirley Ramsden Blaxland (Howarth)

OHGS 1943 - 1950 | 16/10/1932 - 4/10/2020

If you'd like to have your loved one remembered in The Link obituaries, please email development@ohgs.co.uk



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STEP 1. Please indicate how you would like to give

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Thank you, from the pupils you are helping to educate!

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A Dilemma

The back cover of The Hulme Link has always been reserved for The Oldham Hulmeians Annual Dinner "Application for Tickets" form.

Sadly, this year due to the ongoing COVID 19 pandemic, the Annual Dinner will not go ahead.

We sincerely hope that 2022 will see the return of this wonderful event, but in the meantime ... how do we fill the back cover!!! Looking at some old photographs within school I came across this photo – partially filled in with names but not dated ...

Can you help fill in the blanks? Do you recognise yourself or others? And what date was the photo taken?



| | | | | | | | | | |
|-----|--------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|-----------------|-------------|------------|---------------|---------------|
| 4th | Chris Mills | Elaine Smith | Dorothy ? | Gail Wilk | Helen Dubok | Susan Lewis | Julia Thow | ? | Pamela Mellor |
| 3rd | Janet ? | Anne Smithies | Jean Lawlor | Anne Heptonstall | Gwenda Crossley | Christine ? | Hazel Reid | Amelia Bowman | ? |
| 2nd | Anne Sheperd | Sylvia Fearn | Alison Groves | Hazel Sutcliffe | Louise Wilby | Gail Grice | Helen Less | ? | |
| 1st | ? | ? | | Susan Buckley | Mrs Fraser | Joyce Ogden | ? | ? | |