



## HARROGATE COLLEGE UNION

The Alumni Association of Harrogate Ladies' College  
and Highfield Prep School

# THE CHRONICLE

2022



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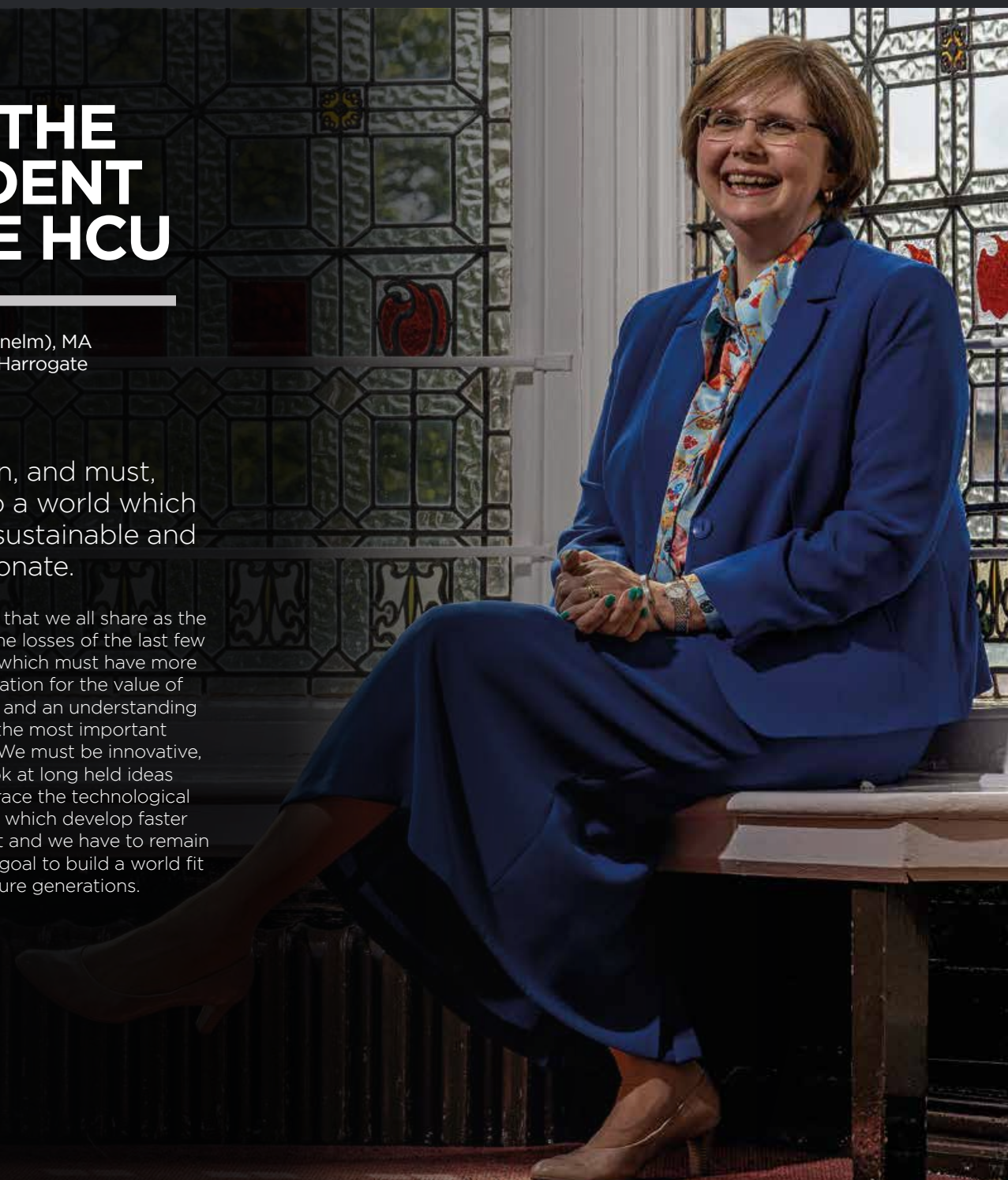
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# FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE HCU

**Sylvia F. Brett** BA (Dunelm), MA (London), Principal of Harrogate Ladies' College

Together we can, and must, build forward to a world which is better, fairer, sustainable and more compassionate.

This is the opportunity that we all share as the world moves on from the losses of the last few years towards a future which must have more hope, a greater appreciation for the value of every individual human and an understanding that integrity is one of the most important qualities of leadership. We must be innovative, creative and able to look at long held ideas anew; we need to embrace the technological and scientific advances which develop faster than we can read about and we have to remain rooted in our common goal to build a world fit for our children and future generations.



Pupils of this school will make a difference; they are already making a difference. The HCU is the perfect example of that. When we welcome you back to school, or you share your achievements, successes and friendships with us, we know that you continue to make a difference all around the world.

In this edition of The Chronicle we have introduced a new section called 'Thank You'. We have so much to thank the HCU community for because you give back to your school so generously. You are making a difference to our pupils and the school community.

Double Nobel Prize winner Marie Curie was driven by her passion for science which was rooted in her determination to make a better life for her fellow men and women. She knew that it wasn't enough just to be a brilliant scientist (or teacher, doctor, builder); we have to be the best human beings that we can be as well if we are to build a better world. She wrote as a young woman in Warsaw:

*'You cannot hope to build a better world without improving the individuals. To that end each of us must work for his or her own improvement, and at the same time share a general responsibility for all humanity, our particular duty being to aid those to whom we think we can be most useful.'*



## FROM THE CHAIR OF THE HCU

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**Alice Gray** (née Howard)

I hope this edition of the HCU Chronicle finds you all well.

It is hard to comprehend how much things have changed over the past year. With events opening back up again and the opportunity to see people in person, I was overjoyed to be able to attend this year's HCU Reunion, the first face to face Reunion in four years. It was wonderful to see so many of you and to be back at College once more.

I would also like to say a huge thank you to the Committee. They have given their time behind the scenes over the past year to ensure that the next generation of HCU members continue to join an active and supportive network of old girls. The Alumni

Representatives will continue to play a central role in working with the College and helping with decade or regional events so please do let us know if you'd like to arrange something (see page 34 for contact details)

Finally, I would like to thank Sylvia, Sarah and Kathryn for their ongoing efforts and for keeping us up to date with all of the happenings from Harrogate.

I wish you all a safe and happy year ahead and very much hope to see you again very soon.

## FROM THE ALUMNI RELATIONS & DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

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**Kathryn Fisk**

**Email:** [hcu@hlc.org.uk](mailto:hcu@hlc.org.uk)

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Welcome to the 2022 edition of The Chronicle. It was such a joy to put this magazine together as there was so much to share with you.

Our HCU members have played a great role in the school: volunteering time to share expertise with current pupils; attending alumni events (this year's Reunion was wonderful); coming to visit us and sharing memories of your time here; generously supporting the Small Hall and Sixth Form Scholarship Programme and last, but by no means

least, for all of the lovely emails, letters and telephone messages I receive in response to the newsletters and requests we send out.

I really hope you enjoy reading this edition which is very much a celebration of the wonderful HCU community and friends of the school.

# ALEX WILLIS-BRAY

**One day you can be on the phone to the New York mafia and the next filming with Jamie Oliver at his house.**

Our newest Alumni Representative, Alex Willis-Bray (1998), tells us about life as a TV Production Executive and Presenter on shows like Jamie Oliver's Dream School and The Apprentice, and shares how her time at Harrogate Ladies' College taught her that there was life out in the world that needs to be explored.

Joining the school in the early 90s in Upper 3, Alex went right through her senior school years as a boarder at Harrogate Ladies' College.

*'I loved my time at school. It pushed me to succeed. The community, that feeling of belonging and most of all, the friendships I made are still really important to me.'*

Despite being local to the area, Alex was a full-time boarder "we got up to all sorts of things" she laughs "but I won't mention that right now! I just remember feeling really lucky to spend so much time with the girls, hanging out, supporting each other and generally going through teenage life together. It was a really happy time spent in the 'horse boxes' (now the Prefect study rooms), with High Teas, school trips and the choir - everything that makes HLC what it is.

It was my time at school that set me up for the next stage of my life - it gave me more confidence, gave me that drive to try new things and showed me there was a life out there to explore. Even the art trip to London gave me an insight into the capital city that helped me several years later when I headed down there for an interview."



And it wasn't just the skills she learnt at school that helped her in her career, even the lacrosse team's reputation played a part "I had an interview for my first production job in London at a big TV production company, and the lady who interviewed me had been to Queen Ethelburgas. She remembered playing us at lacrosse and said she knew just the kind of girl that went to HLC. She offered me the job right there and then!"

During her time at school, Alex had always leaned towards the creative side of things and particularly loved art. This led her to a career in graphic and web design. But, when the .com bubble burst, she knew she needed to think carefully about a new career. It was during a trip to York St John University where she spotted the TV and Film degree that would lead her to a career working on programmes such as 'Coronavirus: When Will Lockdown End' and 'Our Baby: A Modern Miracle'. "I got really excited about the Film & Television course and really enjoyed it, TV sounded so glamorous (in reality, it's not!)" she laughs.

"I was a mature student by this point and I think that actually helped me secure some of my earlier roles in television. It was also sheer determination and pure perseverance, skills I'd learned at school, that helped me to keep chasing my dream. I was constantly contacting and writing to production companies, I just didn't give up. I eventually got a call from a

production company for a football drama and went down to London for the first time since the art trip. I was on my way home after the interview and I got a call to say I'd got the job and I started tomorrow! I had to pack my bag and say goodbye to my family in one evening and then I was off to start a new life in London the next day. It was crazy but I just cracked on with it."

Alex wears two hats in her role in television. As well as being in front of the camera in presenting roles, she also works on the production side of things, managing all aspects of a production and driving it forwards in order to deliver the finished article to the channel. "The production team facilitate making the programme so anything from hiring crew, setting up global shoots, budgets, health and safety, music, legal, liaising with talent and commissioners, whatever it takes to make it work. It taps into my creative side because I can visualise where the editorial team are coming from and can predict what will happen next with the show so can mitigate issues. The whole production is like a pattern in my mind and that really appeals to me.

*'I love the variety. It can be stressful but it's fun.'*

One day you can be on the phone to the New York Mafia and the next thing you're filming with Jamie Oliver at his house. You meet so many different people from around the world, you're put in a position where you have to work as a team with people you've never met before, and you work together to make a programme seen by millions around the globe. It gives you such a sense of achievement, especially with the factual programmes I tend to work on, as it means we can tell someone's story or provide information that could educate or even help people around the world."

I get the same buzz from presenting, especially as I do a lot of live television and I get to focus on fashion, which is a real passion of mine." And what is the hope now for the next phase of her career?

"I'd love to do more presenting in and around Yorkshire, and that's not just because we've moved back here. I'm proud to be from Yorkshire!"

Since her recent move back to Yorkshire, Alex has taken up the Alumni Representative role for Leeds and Bradford.

*'It still feels like I'm going 'back to school' when I take part in events as an Alumni Rep but it also feels like I'm looking at what happens in school from a different angle. Knowing I'm there to help others and support the younger generation to come through is a great privilege.'*





# SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

It has been a busy year with lots to celebrate across the school.

At the beginning of the last school year we were delighted to be the only girls' school in the North of England chosen as a finalist in the Independent School of the Year Award.

Autumn last year, College boarder, Elizabeth-Rose Sandhu, age 17, penned a poem inspired by her love of nature, to win an award at a local Literary Festival. Elizabeth-Rose said she was thrilled to win the Young Writers'

Competition. The Sixth Form pupil hopes to study English Literature at Edinburgh University and one day dreams of becoming a head teacher. Her passion for the subject was sparked by teachers at Harrogate Ladies' College who helped develop her love of Sylvia Plath and the Bronte sisters.

In November we underwent a comprehensive review by the Independent Schools Inspectorate – the equivalent of Ofsted in the state sector. Their report highlighted the work of staff in fulfilling the school's values and individual achievements of pupils in academic and personal development. The report also recognised the quality of academic study by pupils as well as the 'personal, moral, social and cultural development of pupils', and the standards of practice put in place for the welfare, health and safety of pupils.

At the beginning of 2022 Sophie Dragoj received the Rotary Club of Harrogate Young Citizen Award for her effort in school and the local community. Sophie, our very own Charity Prefect said she was thrilled to receive her prize from School Principal, Mrs Sylvia Brett.

She was nominated for her efforts with local and national appeals including the MacMillan Coffee Morning, the Harvest Appeal for Harrogate Homeless Project, the Poppy Appeal and the national Anti-Bullying Week.



In the spring, pupils working towards their bronze, silver and gold Duke of Edinburgh award, set off across the North Yorkshire Moors for the expedition element of the programme. All of the groups did exceptionally well and thankfully the weather was kind for their assessment.



In June, we welcomed a former Olympic athlete to school to speak at the College Sports Presentation evening, which recognises the sporting achievements and efforts of pupils at the school. Swimmer, Chris Cook, told the audience of parents and pupils that he was an ordinary man who had achieved extraordinary feats because of self-belief, hard work and resilience. He said the ability to fail and bounce back from failures was the most important lesson in life.

Chris swam for Great Britain in the Olympics, world championships, European championships and competed for England in the Commonwealth Games. He started his swimming career in his home town of South Shields in the North East and now runs a swimming academy for over 1,000 children.

In the summer term, the modern-day complexities of a 'real' murder scene were brought to life in a day of serious scientific investigation for pupils. The girls had to investigate the suspicious 'death' of a 'body' as part of their Crime Scene Investigation Day, which was attended by a forensics officer from North Yorkshire Police. The project included studying hair and blood samples, finger printing, testing fabrics under a microscope, and looking at the science behind gunshot residue. The day, run by the school's Science department, began with the 'discovery' of the 'victim's' body and led to detailed research in a makeshift mortuary.

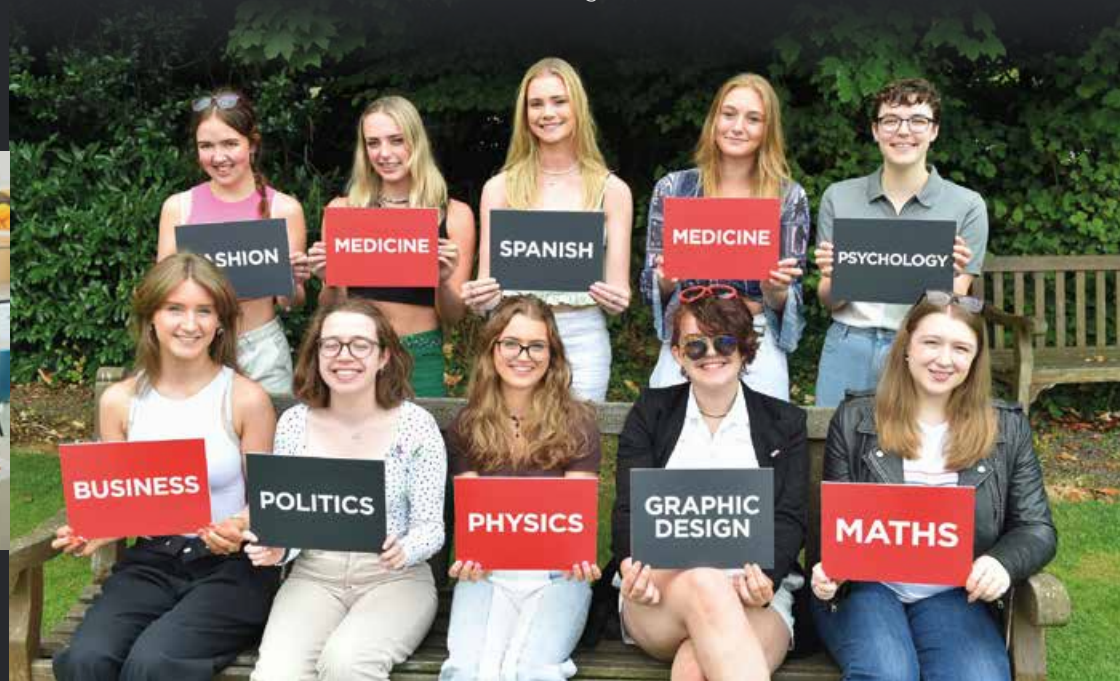
Head of Science at the school, Sue Ali, said the day was designed to bring science to life and encourage more girls to think about STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths) in future. The day was aided by STEM ambassadors who are sixth-form students from the school who are studying Science subjects. They were also given a talk on careers in forensics and the opportunities in police and detective work.



We were privileged to welcome the renowned artist, Tom Wood, to run workshops with Lower 5 and Lower 6 pupils. Tom, who has been commissioned to paint portraits of HRH King Charles III and Alan Bennet, to name a few, shared exciting techniques and tips which inspired our budding artists.

Pupils celebrated an excellent set of A level results which include impressive grades in Sciences and Maths. Pupils at the school achieved top results across all subjects with 69 per cent of all grades at A\*-B level; 42% at A\*-A and 22% at the highest A\* grade, including 100% of Further Maths grades.

Girls also celebrated the highest number of top GCSE grades since the new grading system came into place five years ago. The number of top 9-7 grades (equivalent of A\*\*-A previously), increased to 64 per cent, with 24% of all grades at the highest possible grade 9. There were successes across a wide range of subjects with six separate subjects achieving a clean sweep of 9-7 grades.





# SPEECH DAY

It was an honour to welcome a very special guest to this year's Speech Day.

**Dr Emily Lawson DBE, Head of the Delivery Unit at 10 Downing Street, previously worked at NHS England and Improvement where she was National Director for the NHS Covid-19 vaccine deployment programme. She led the operational delivery of the vaccine across the NHS in England from its inception and returned to the role to lead the booster programme**

The theme of this year's Speech Day at the school was 'Building Forward Together' which reflects the school's decisive response to the pandemic two years ago and its determination to lead the way in girls' education moving forward.

Dame Emily told the audience that her role was to ensure the vaccine rolled out in line with the Joint Committee for Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) advice and in a way that ensured fair and equitable access, maximising uptake across all communities.

A Molecular Geneticist by background, Emily has led a number of large-scale organisational change programmes. She was Chief People Officer at Kingfisher plc, and worked at Morrisons and McKinsey. She was a founding member and has also been Deputy Chair of the 30% Club, which aims to increase representation of women on UK plc boards, and to research and support greater diversity in the UK and global institutions.

As well as hearing from Dame Emily we heard from all of our outgoing prefects and bid them farewell as they took their first steps in the next part of their journeys and became the newest members of the alumni community.



## SMALL HALL APPEAL

Even during the summer holidays, the Small Hall remains one of the busiest spaces in school.

Over the summer it has played host to sporting summer schools, a Latin residential, the Youth Choir and a brass band. The external groups that hire out our school during holidays are a vital part of securing additional funding streams to support the school but, on this occasion, it does mean that fitting in a major refurbishment is a bit challenging but we're delighted that the work is now scheduled to go ahead at Easter, under the watchful eye of our new Head of Drama, Mrs Lucy Mallon.

As part of the refurbishment, we're launching an art competition within school, inviting pupils to create a beautiful mural to recognise the generosity of our donors. We can't wait to share the results of the refurbishment with you.

## SIXTH FORM SCHOLARSHIP

Our existing scholarship and bursary programme is integral to our school, enabling young women with potential and ambition to have every possible opportunity to excel. And, in turn, these young women bring so much to our school community. However, over recent years, the number of requests for financial support has increased.



So, in a first for the school, we asked friends and our alumni community to come together to help fund a new scholarship for our sixth form to enable a day girl from the local area to attend Harrogate Ladies' College, at a critical time, as she studies for her A levels.

The scholarship aims to remove all the barriers that stand in the way of an exceptional girl from a local, low-income family attending the College. As ever, the HCU Community has been incredibly supportive and through your generosity we have already raised over £5,000 of our £40,000 target - thank you so very much.

With £35,000 still to raise to achieve our target for the 1893 Scholarship, your support could be critical in enabling us to change one young person's life.

Many alumni have chosen to make a one off donation to support the 1893 Scholarship. Others have generously pledged a gift in their Will to ensure that they are helping us to secure the future of the school and those who pass through it. For many, this is an incredible opportunity to pledge a life changing gift.

If you would like to make a gift, or are considering leaving a legacy to the school, you can get in touch at [hcu@hlc.org.uk](mailto:hcu@hlc.org.uk) or donate online at [hlc.org.uk](https://hlc.org.uk)

## SCHOLARSHIP NAME REVEALED

As well as the alumni community giving so generously, many of you also took the time to vote for the name of the new scholarship. The Swinton Scholarship, suggested in recognition of the generous act of Lord Swinton when he offered up his home to house the school during WW2, and the 1893 Scholarship, in reference to our founding year as one of the leading schools in women's education, were the two main options.

It was a very close-run thing, with almost identical numbers of votes for both Swinton and 1893. So, we have come up with a solution that brings both of these wonderful ideas together.

The Small Hall will be named The Swinton Theatre. And the Sixth Form scholarship will be known as the 1893 Scholarship.

Thank you to everyone who has given to the school and to everyone who took the time to place their vote.

## SUPPORTING UKRAINE

Like much of the world, we have seen the impact of the crisis in Ukraine. Here at Harrogate Ladies' College we are supporting 3 young people from Ukraine to ensure they're able to continue their education with best possible support.

We're incredibly grateful to the HCU Executive Committee for so generously supporting one our pupils, Ksenia. Ksenia is 12 years old and has fled the war with her mother. Her father and two brothers have had to stay behind. She and her mother are being hosted by a local family in Knaresborough and whilst the school is covering all of the fees for her attending school, the gift from the HCU Executive will enable Ksenia to enjoy extra-curricular activities. She is a very talented musician and won an international music competition, and has already joined the choir, so this special donation will fund Ksenia's music lessons for the year and ensure she can continue to enjoy her passions.

Over the past 12 months we have met with 111 old girls. You have attended events, shared your expertise to inspire our current pupils, taken the time to be interviewed to raise the profile of our wonderful alumni community.

150 alumni also took the time to respond to our Alumni Survey in order to help us forge the next phase of activity for the HCU members.

In addition, there have been countless responses to newsletters, well-wishes for current pupils, kind words and the sharing of school memories.

A huge thank you to everyone for supporting the school.

# TALES FROM THE ARCHIVES

Author, local historian and member of the Civic Society, Dr Paul Jennings, gave a talk at this year's HCU Reunion. The response was so positive, Dr Jennings kindly wrote this article outlining the school's early years.

The school dates from 1893 when it began as an offshoot of Harrogate College, a boys' school in Ripon Road, then under the headship of George Savery. After a succession of premises, Savery built the new school on land behind the original school, completed in 1904, with a new wing added within just three years. Sadly, Savery died soon after, the boys' college subsequently closed and the girls' school now took the name Harrogate College.



From 1898, the head was Miss Jones, formerly of Bradford Girls' Grammar School. In an address to the girls in 1906, she outlined the school's ethos. First, education was not about facts. As she expressed it, 'the only thing that really matters in education is the training of the mental faculties, and any subject which improves your powers of concentration, observation, reflection, and reason for you is a valuable subject'.

The school was part of a great expansion of schooling for the daughters of the middle classes. But whilst she believed passionately in their right to an education just like their brothers, and for some it would form the path to a career, she made it clear also that for most it would make them better people but more particularly better wives and mothers. As she put it,

*'The homes of England will be all the happier when presided over by a greater number of thoughtful, intelligent and liberally educated women.'*



To achieve this end, they received a broad and stimulating education from highly qualified staff. In addition to the usual subjects, science and art were studied. The learning of languages was encouraged, with French- and German-born teachers at the school. Further, for the older girls, a house was taken near Paris, the Maison Blanche, where they would speak the language and enjoy the city's culture.





After it was forced to close due to the First World War, a house at the school was similarly used. There was intellectual stimulus too in a range of societies and out-of-school activities. The Debating Society was very active, with subjects such as whether women should dress for comfort, fashion or art (art won) or whether monarchy was preferable to a republic (it was) or whether girls had a better time than boys (they didn't). The Dramatic Society was also active, including a performance, in French, of *Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme*. There were visiting lecturers and the older girls attended those offered in the town by the Literary Society or the University Extension Movement, like those of Professor Grant on the French Revolution. And there were excursions to local places of interest like Fountains

Abbey, but also more informally, one to Birstwith, for example, with Mr and Mrs Savery in the summer of 1899, including boating on the river for which, the school magazine reported, three of the College boys 'kindly came to take charge of the boats'.



Domestic skills were always encouraged. To this end, in 1911 Clarence House was equipped for girls to learn cooking, housewifery, laundry, needlework and dressmaking, and the general management of a home, including the arrangement of the servants' duties. Sport was also very much a part of school life, with hockey, cricket, tennis, lacrosse, athletics, cycling and swimming at the Starbeck pool. There were matches with other local private girls' schools, as the hockey team, for example, in 1900-01, played Dunorlan, Harrogate, Bradford Girls' Grammar School, Harrogate, Ripon and Horsforth Ladies teams.



The duty to think of others less fortunate was stressed. The school maintained, for example, a 'native day school' at Jaffna, in then Ceylon. In 1911, girls made several visits to the recently opened Home for Crippled Children in Tewit Well Road and a Christmas Party was put on for the children at the school.

In those Edwardian years, the school had some 150 girls boarding. They lived in the school itself or in the houses which the school purchased in Clarence Drive.

An admissions register, beginning in 1903, shows who they were. They were the daughters of industrialists, merchants, and professional men, including many clergymen: the vicar of Christ Church, Harrogate, for example, sent his daughters to the school. They came largely from the north of England. Where the girls went after school is less easy to examine. The inclusion of marriages and births in the magazine suggests that many did indeed take up the roles Miss Jones envisaged. But others did go on to university and pursue careers, usually in teaching.

Several girls went on to Newnham College, Cambridge. Norah Manson, the daughter of a Manchester accountant, read medieval and modern languages and pursued such a career. Faith Bagenal, the daughter of a Dublin civil servant, took a degree in economics and became active in the suffrage movement, on which she read a paper at an Old Girls' Reunion. She later became Lady Henderson and no subsequent career is noted in the College records.

Of course, the school magazines and formal records can only tell us so much. The former naturally record the successes. It would be nice to hear the voices of those Edwardian girls and what they thought of their experience.



## INTRODUCING OUR FIRST EVER ALUMNI PREFECT

We are delighted to introduce Niamh, our very first Alumni Prefect.

Niamh will be working closely with the Alumni & Development Manager, to help raise awareness of the amazing alumni community, encouraging leavers to join, thus ensuring the long term future of the HCU. Niamh is also spending some of her time in the archives, helping to maintain the wonderful collection of items cataloguing the history of school.

Niamh is one of 13 new Prefects, including two Head Girls, who have taken up their position this year. All of our Prefects play a vital role in the school, acting on behalf of the pupil community and working closely with the school Principal, Mrs Brett.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### Recent Leavers Celebration

Friday 6th January

We are hosting our first Recent Leavers Celebration event and we'd love it if you could join us. If you left Upper 6 in either 2020, 2021 or 2022 then this event is for you and your family. So, get your cocktail attire ready and come and join us for a lovely reception event on Friday 6th January. Confirm your attendance at [HCU@hlc.org.uk](mailto:HCU@hlc.org.uk)

### College Carol Service

Friday 9th December

The college Carol Service is taking place on Friday 9th December at St Wilfrid's Church at 3.20pm and all former staff and pupils are very welcome to attend. You can confirm your attendance at [HCU@hlc.org.uk](mailto:HCU@hlc.org.uk)

### Speech Day

Saturday 8 July

Old Girls are welcome to join our annual Speech Day event on Saturday 8 July at 11am in the College Sports Hall. To attend this wonderful event, get in touch at [HCU@hlc.org.uk](mailto:HCU@hlc.org.uk) to register your interest.

### Come and visit us

Alumni are always welcome to visit College and we love the opportunity to show you around and help you revisit your old haunts. Get in touch if you'd like to come and see us.  
[HCU@hlc.org.uk](mailto:HCU@hlc.org.uk) or  
**01423 537029**

# DECADE NEWS

## 1950's Leavers

### VAL GALTON (NEE HAMILTON) (1952 Armaclare)

I decided the College and the HCU arguably should have on record any academic achievements of its alumnae, so I am sending you the notice that went out in the monthly Dartmouth Medical School newsletter:

“ The American Thyroid Association (ATA) have established the Valerie Anne Galton Distinguished Lectureship Award in recognition of Valerie Anne Galton, PhD, professor emerita of physiology and neurobiology at Geisel School of Medicine, for her remarkable scientific accomplishments and significant contributions to the advancement of clinical knowledge of thyroid conditions. This is the first ATA lectureship named in honor of a woman. ”

I could not have had a more fulfilling career, and it all began with the encouragement of Miss Kay, my chemistry teacher at the College in the late 1940s. I still have a small project going in the lab. I also have a very happy family group of two sons, four grandchildren and two great grandchildren. Two of my granddaughters are also following a career in science. Sadly, my husband died in 1968.

### PAMELA MACK (NEE MURRAY) (1945-1953, Oakdale and York House)

I am still going more or less strongly in Freiburg. I have been in Germany for 60 years now. I send good wishes to anyone who may remembers me.

### GILLIAN HARMAN (NÉE THORNTON) (1949-1953, Balliol)

In 1959 I married my husband John Harman who was at the time a Lieutenant in the Royal Engineers. In 1973 he was posted for two years to New Zealand to be the Chief Engineer of their Army. Whilst living in NZ we travelled around the country and decided it would be a great country to bring up our family. They were then nine, seven and two years old. In 1974 John left the British Army and joined a Civil Engineering Company. We have lived in Auckland since then.

We now have eight grandchildren. The eldest Henry, an Emergency Specialist, is marrying a fellow doctor. She comes from a village near Harrogate called Hampsthwaite and the wedding will be there. Hopefully John and I are coming back to Harrogate and will be staying in the West Park Hotel. The date of the wedding is 20th May 2023. If anyone from school of my era is around at that time, I would be delighted to see you. We will be in Harrogate from 18th - 22nd May.

### ANN KEATING (NEE COOPER) (1947-1952, Armaclare)

In June we happily holidayed in Guernsey after four cancelled holidays owing to the lockdowns - we both avoided Covid. We are off to Guernsey again soon before celebrating our Diamond Wedding Anniversary with family and friends.

We are soon to become great grandparents for the second time in the New Year, perhaps a little girl this time next year. In 2023 we also look forward to the wedding of our grandson in Fareham. It looks like being an exciting year!

### MARGARET CORNWALL (NEE RATCLIFF) (1954-1958, Lincoln)

My partner and I have moved from the beautiful beaches and climate of the Far North of North Island of New Zealand to the cooler, mountainous regions of South Island, just out of Christchurch, in order to be nearer both our families. I would be delighted to see anyone travelling out here after 2 1/2 years of closed borders. One of my daughters is working in the Alumni Office of Girton College, Cambridge

### DIANA CREAN (NEE PAWSON) (1958, Swinton)

I now have 11 grandchildren and 9 great grandchildren who take some keeping up with. I recently joined the U3A here and play indoor tennis, table tennis and canasta. I've also joined a lovely choir, so am really enjoying life. After a hip replacement and foot operation I feel generally in good health. Very happy to hear from any HCU members from my time who live near to Huddersfield.

### SONIA IRWIN (NEE WOLFSON) (1948-1957, Lincoln and Oakdale)

I am still working at 81! Keeps my brain active and I still enjoy it.



## 1960's Leavers

### JAKI MOORHOUSE (NEE WHITEHEAD) (1954-1964, Lancaster)

I spent a month during the early summer back in the U.K. and stayed with Dot Wilson (nee Faulkner) whilst in Yorkshire. I also met up with Penny Harris (nee Slater) and Margie Pepper (nee Roberts).

I have recently joined an agency which finds placements for French students wanting English immersion courses and I am finding that very rewarding.

### KAREN NICOL (1965-1969, Lancaster)

I have had a career designing textiles worldwide for decades. I work in fashion, interiors and have had many solo shows in galleries around the world.

I recently showed a new collection of 'Art for Interiors' in a solo show at Town House in Spitalfields.

Visit [www.karennicol.com](http://www.karennicol.com)



## 1960's Leavers

### AMANDA HALE (NEE BATTERSBY) (1955-1960, Armaclare)

As a Canadian West Coaster living on Hornby Island in British Columbia, I have been delighted to reconnect with Jennifer Manly (nee Haworth) also of Armaclare. Jennifer was in my sister Bridget's year at College, and now divides her time between Vancouver and Washington DC. Here we are at a lunch date, photographed by Jenn's husband Rene.



### SHARON MAAS (1968)

As many of you may have seen, The Girl from Lamaha Street was released in Spring 2022, charting Sharon's early life and her time at Harrogate Ladies College. This was followed closely by the release of historical novel, The Girl from Jonestown.

### DIANNE BRAITHWAITE (1965-1969, Clarence)

We are now the proud grandparents of a beautiful baby girl Olivia, born November 2020. Our daughter and son-in-law have now moved from Putney, London to York, which means we see Olivia almost every day. We are in the process of semi retiring and coming out of the high street, to concentrate on our online business.

## 1970's Leavers

### DIANA BOOTH (1965-1971, Oakdale & Armaclare)

It was a delight to pay two visits to HLC this year. One in February during a welcome visit to Ilkley and Harrogate and once for the Reunion in May. I was able to donate some old copies of the 'Chronicle' to the school archives and hope that they fill an interesting gap in the record!

It was lovely to be in chapel and stand in the choir stalls where I used to sing as a teenager. I still sing in both a church choir (we had a cathedral trip to Brecon this summer) and a local choral society, thanks to such good music teaching at College all those years ago.

I meet up with old friends from my era and I hope to catch up with them again in November. I retired from the NHS and have been volunteering for Cruse bereavement service for six years which has been very rewarding and I continue to do so.

### ANGELA HARRISON (NEE ROY) (1974)

I enjoyed being back in the school grounds a couple of weeks ago when the Brass Band Summer School was in residence. A colleague I trained with in Cambridge back in 1994/5 was playing and I arranged for us to have a meal together in town on the Wednesday evening. We are now both retired from the profession, but agreed that Music Therapy had been a very rewarding career!

I found it very nostalgic to sit outside the library listening to the three bands playing in the Assembly Hall, the Small Hall and the Chapel, having played and sung in each of them.

### ELIZABETH MACAULAY (NEE DEAN) (1972-1979, Balliol)

We're back at our own house in Banbury now after my husband Mark's work was based in High Wycombe for 11 years. Our daughter Tina is now nearly 20 years old and has completed a year of Philosophy, Politics & Economics University of Oxford, where my husband Mark is finishing off his doctoral thesis.

It is great to see my sister Rosemary (nee Dean), cousins Debbie (nee Lumb) and Nicola, Kate and Helen (all nee Garnett) when I can get back to Yorkshire. It has also been great to keep in contact with Susan Covill, Karen Capper (nee Matthews), Sally Thomson (nee Stretton-Downes) and Jackie Griffiths (nee Newstead) - more and more important to me as the years go by.

### VIRGINIA BURTON (NEE MATHER) (1965-1972, Balliol)

I still live in Darlington. I am kept very busy with my 9 grandchildren, taking them to their various activities, mostly football, and spend most weekends watching some of them playing football too.

I have had a knee and hip replacement in the last two years and they were successful as the pain has now gone. I hope to go abroad on holiday next year.

### DIANA BROWN (NEE KENYON) (1971)

I am delighted to report that both my daughters are now engaged - within 6 weeks of each other!

Alexandra will marry next year and Elizabeth in 2024. I see Helen Cottier (nee Constantine), Sally Wilkinson (nee Blackburn) and Rachel Harrap and caught up with a few more at the recent Reunion event.

### GILLIAN STEELE (1974 - 1978, Balliol)

I had a wonderful trip to the UK in May 2022 to finally see family and friends. This included a reunion of approximately 20 College classmates in beautiful Northumberland. It was such a treat to relax and catch up with these lifelong friends especially as I now live in Chicago, USA.

### SALLY HESLOP (NEE HOLDSWORTH) (1979)

Just had a lovely few months, first holding a 60th for Alison Rose (McArdle, Armaclare 73-79) and enjoyed seeing Sarah Dawson (Carter), Wendy Jenkinson (Stirk, Lancaster) and Caroline Bamforth (Haigh, York). Then met up with Simone Jardim (Grieve) with the same girls for a lovely lunch whilst Simone over in the UK from America. Went to Edinburgh Fringe with Louise Benson (Ferrand Balliol 74-81) to see Josephine Greenhalgh (Jowie 74-79) in her one woman show absolutely fabulous. Finally saw Ros Johnson (Colclough Balliol 75-80) in France on holiday with Ali Rose.

My girls Hannah Heslop (Pankhurst) doing well and living in London and Tassy Heslop currently in Australia back packing after travelling through South America for four months. A busy few months!

### SAMANTHA JANE BRITTLE (NEE PARSONS) (1989, York)

Delighted to share that our eldest child, Liam, has secured his first-choice university place to read Law from September 2022 at University of Lincoln, where he will also be applying to join the East Midlands University Air Squadron. We are immensely proud of Liam's achievements.

## 1980's Leavers

### KATIE HALL (NEE STUBBS)

(1976–1981)

I am still working for the United Nations in Geneva in a small trade development agency, where I handle the media relations. If anyone is living in this area do get in touch. I am still in contact with Sarah Keddie, Sally Aagaard, Gaye Senior-Smith and Catherine Mitchel which is lovely after all these years!

### VICTORIA GORST (NEE MALTON)

(1980-1983)

I have just started as Office Administrator for an International Education Recruitment agency who also offer tutoring services and English courses. I have worked in Education for the past 16 years. If any of HLC alumni are looking for overseas teaching/ tutoring positions please let me know. The company I work for is m2r Education.

### ZOË SAYER (1986–1988, Lincoln East)

I joined the North Sea Transition Authority as Senior Development Geoscientist this year and I am thoroughly enjoying regulating my old employers. I am very proud that my son will be starting at Aberdeen University this year, and my daughter will be starting Sixth Form after excellent National 5 results.

### JUDI WHEELER (NEE BAXTER)

(1979–1987, Balliol)

Still living in South Warwickshire. Married with 2 rather active (reactive) spaniels. My son has now left home after completing his degree.

I'm working for a charity training electrical and mechanical apprentices as the National Operations Director which involves lots of travelling across England and Wales. I'm still in regular contact with Ann Baldwin, Carolyn Morris, Claire

Thickett, Caroline Allum plus I see lots of updates via Facebook from many other colleagues and friends.

## 1990's Leavers

### CLARE HIND (1985-1990, York)

Well it's the year of being 50 and social media has helped us all see each other celebrating! On the career front I have been overseeing two schools as 'Executive Headteacher'. I saw the eldest off to University this year so it's all change! I'd like to thank HLC friends who have messaged in recent weeks, supporting me as we have navigated through my husband's freak cricket accident - the messages have got me through some tough days - friendship is everything..

## 2000's Leavers

### SOPHIE DWERRYHOUSE

(2000, York)

I am in most contact with Claire Davenport, Julz Manby, Vicky Redshaw (nee Anyan), Rachael Gowland and Heather Gagen. Most recently, I caught up with Julz at the Great Yorkshire Show thanks to my job at the Country Land & Business Association taking me there. Rachel has visited a couple of times either through her work in the racing industry, which brought her to my local racetrack (Ludlow) where we enjoyed a really jolly day, or when she has been passing through Shropshire. We even managed to squeeze in riding out which was great. Claire and I caught up in August for a fun evening



at the Farmers Club in London which we hope to make a more regular occurrence! I am living on the Shropshire/Powys border and would love to see any old girls at any time. [Dwerryhouse.s@gmail.com](mailto:Dwerryhouse.s@gmail.com)

## 2010's Leavers



### REBECCA BENTLEY

(2010, Lincoln East)

15 members of the school choir were delighted to be invited to sing at the wedding of Rebecca Bentley and her new husband, Rex, in April 2022. The service took place at St Robert's church in Pannal.

### ELLE KAY-COLES (2015)



In the summer, Elle returned to the stage here at school where she played the lead role in the play, 'Whose Life Is It Anyway?' by Brian Clark, by HG1 productions. The

play had a three-day run in the Small Hall where Elle's passion for live performances was sparked after appearing as Joseph in the school's production of Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat.

Elle, who now works in TV production, played the role of an art teacher who is tetraplegic and examines the complex relationship with medics and disability rights.

### ROXANNE DAVIES (2019)

(2019)

Roxanne recently graduated from University of Exeter with a 2:1 in English & Drama. Roxanne also released her first novel this year, which she started whilst at school. Her book, *The Past Never Dies: A Serena Blackwood Mystery*, is available to buy on Amazon.



### SARAH PLANCHAK (2019)

Sarah is doing an integrated masters in Bioengineering at the University of Sheffield. Sarah spent some time in California doing a summer internship as a Lab Science intern at a start-up that works in Antibody Therapeutics.



### EMMA STANLEY (2019)

Emma has been on placement at Harrogate Hospital, York Hospital and in the community. She is studying for a BSc (Hons) Adult Nursing at the University of York and is very much enjoying her second year. She has also taken up the role of Charity & Events Secretary for the lacrosse club.





# OBITUARIES

The deep sympathy of Harrogate Ladies' College and Harrogate College Union is offered to the relatives and friends of the following:

**August 2019 Josephine Wilbourn (Dr Clarke)**, Ba 1948-1956.

**October 2019 Barbara Ogden (Mrs Hiles)**, La 1938-1942.

**July 2021 Frances Mudie (Mrs Burchell)** 1952-1956.

**August 2021 Elspeth Macfarlane (Mrs Campbell)** 1933-1938. Passed away at the age of 102 very peacefully at home, at the end of a long, full and happy life in which Harrogate Ladies' College played a very happy part.



**September 2021 Jane Kenyan (Mrs Evans)**, A 1964-1971.



Sister of Diana Kenyon (Mrs Brown) and Ann Kenyon (Mrs Holmes). Wife to Ray and mother to Owen and Katie. Jane, who was always very sporty, being especially good at swimming and lacrosse, can be seen here at school.

**November 2021 Joan Nicholson**, La 1933-1940. A former English and Drama teacher and headmistress, she retained her sharp mind until she died just six days short of her 100th birthday.

**November 2021 Margaret Camm (Mrs Morrell)**, La 1943-1948. Mother of Ruth (Mrs Girdham) LiE 1971-1977, Joe and Mary (Mrs Easterbrook) LiE 1976 -1982. Widow of Frank. She was secretary of the Nottinghamshire branch of the HCU for many years.

**November 2021 Elizabeth Conchar (Mrs Drabble)** Li 1941-1947.

**October 2021 Patricia Mary Morgan (Mrs Smith)** ,1951-1957. Mother of Kairen Morgan (Mrs Robinson)

**November 2021 Margaret Ann James (Mrs Johnson)**, A 1943-1948. Passed away just 10 weeks after a glorious celebration of her 90th birthday with her three children, six grandchildren and their partners.

Despite being widowed at 58 and breaking her hip five years ago, she retained her sunny disposition to the last. She remained in touch with her contemporary, Rose Brennan, and kept a Harrogate Ladies' College shield on the dining room wall for many years.

**November 2021 Irene Hindmarsh** Irene was a former member of the College Board of Governors during the 1990s

**December 2021 Jennifer Lesley Wilbourn (Mrs Poulton)** Ba 1954-1959.

**January 2022 Beryl Barker (Mrs Hilton)**, Y 1943-1949.

**January 2022 Julia Catherine Westhead (Mrs Sames)**, Li 1951-1957. Beloved wife of the late Colin Sames. A much-loved mother and grandmother. She is much missed by her old friend Pat Bryars (now Tricia Kirkham) 1949- 1955.

**January 2022 Mrs Margaret Morris** 1974-1984. Mrs Morris taught Geography at Harrogate Ladies' College

**February 2022 Astrid Chalmers Watson (Mrs Ritchie)**, Li 1946-1954

**March 2022 Daphne Rosemary Hymas (Mrs Wilson)**, 1943-53. Sister of Erica & Jasmine Hymas. Friend for 78 years of Francesca Gibson (Mrs Gibson) 1944-54.

**March 2022 Sheila Foster (Mrs Cox)**, Li 1939-1947.

**Spring 2022 Betty Dawson (Mrs Beaumont)**, Y 1935-1942. Mother of Melody, Sophie and Jo Beaumont (Mrs Griffin).

**May 2022 Morag Siddall (Mrs Keohane)**, Li 1977-1982. Good friend of Pamela Clark (Mrs Gordon) Li 1977-1982.

**June 2022 Valerie Carter (Mrs Dow)**, A 1955-1961.

**June 2022 Fay Smith**. Former Speech & Drama teacher who taught at the College for 30 years.

**July 2022 Rosemary Wood (Mrs McKnight)**, Li 1955-1961. Beloved wife of the late David Lawrence McKnight and mother to Patrick and Christopher.

**July 2022 Margaret Trimble (Mrs Woodhouse)**, Li 1949-1953. Elder sister of Valerie Trimble (Mrs Newton) Li 1947-1951, daughter of Mary Trimble (Mrs Anderson) also of Lincoln House.

**August 2022 June Sellers (Mrs Gooch)**, A 1943-1949. Beloved mother to Christopher and Michael, mother-in-law to Hazel and Sally, grannie to Laura and sister to Di Sellers (Mrs Bevins) who was also a pupil at Harrogate Ladies' College.



## HARROGATE COLLEGE UNION EXECUTIVE

|                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| <b>President:</b>       | Mrs Sylvia Brett<br>Harrogate Ladies' College,<br>1 Clarence Drive, Harrogate, HG1 2QG |
| <b>Chairman:</b>        | Mrs Alice Gray (Howard)  |
| <b>Treasurer:</b>       | Mrs Alice Gray (Howard)  |
| <b>Secretary:</b>       | Mrs Susan Hundleby (Davies)  |
| <b>HCU Governor:</b>    | Dame Francine Holroyd  |
| <b>Honorary Member:</b> | Mrs Jofan Bankes (Kingswell)   |

## YOUR ALUMNI REPRESENTATIVES

The College, HCU Executive, and the Alumni Representatives work together to ensure you can find out about alumni events in your region, or, if you are new to the area, or visiting, and would like to connect with other former pupils, we can put you in touch with the right people.

### Organising your own Reunion?

We are also available to help you with organising your own reunion to bring together classmates from your year group or school decade.

However you'd like to reconnect with Harrogate Ladies College and the HCU, contact us at [hcu@hlc.org.uk](mailto:hcu@hlc.org.uk)

A huge thank you to all of the Alumni Representatives for giving their time over the past year. If you would like to support any of our alumni activity or become an Alumni Representative, then please do get in touch [HCU@hlc.org.uk](mailto:HCU@hlc.org.uk) or telephone **01423 537029** – we always love to hear from you.

|                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Rae Jenkinson (Taylor)        | <b>Pre-1950s Leavers</b>                               |
| Jane Knight (Ellis)           | <b>1960s Leavers</b>                                   |
| Sarah Hodgson-Jones (Hodgson) | <b>1980s Leavers</b>                                   |
| Victoria Redshaw (Anyan)      | <b>1990s Leavers</b>                                   |
| Charlotte Gardiner            | <b>2000s Leavers</b>                                   |
| Hannah Lowther                | <b>2010s Leavers</b>                                   |
| Amelia Braithwaite            | <b>2020 Leavers (2020 Head Girl)</b>                   |
| Margaret Morley               | <b>Former Staff</b>                                    |
| Jane Knight (Ellis)           | <b>Berkshire, Wiltshire, Oxfordshire and Hampshire</b> |
| Natasha Atkinson (Alsop)      | <b>Buckinghamshire</b>                                 |
| Amanda Meehan (Sykes)         | <b>Canada</b>  |
| Rachel Boyd                   | <b>Harrogate</b>                                       |
| Alex Willis-Bray              | <b>Leeds &amp; Bradford</b>                            |
| Hannah Lowther                | <b>London (North)</b>                                  |
| Rebecca Bentley               | <b>London (South)</b>                                  |
| Sue Kane (Killen)             | <b>Manchester</b>                                      |
| Susan Hundleby (Davies)       | <b>Midlands</b>  |
| Alice Gray (Howard)           | <b>Nottingham, Sheffield, and Leicester</b>            |
| Roma Haigh                    | <b>Teesside &amp; Newcastle</b>                        |
| Ruth McGregor (Parr)          | <b>York</b>  |



## HARROGATE COLLEGE UNION

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