

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

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

Janet Kaiser (nee Hankin)
ejfkaiser@yahoo.co.uk

1983

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

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

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

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

Sharon Forsdyke
Sharonlforsdyke@gmail.com

YEAR NOTES

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

CESTRIAN REMEMBERED

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

George Michael Woods 1950

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Stella Woods – Daughter

David Hough

1951

David worked in South

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

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

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

James Hough (his youngest son)

Alan Nicholls

1953

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

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

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

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

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

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

Alwyn Peel

Eveline J Nelson (née Peel) **1966**

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

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

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

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

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

Susan Carmichael

Lyn Palmer (née Burke) **1968**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

John Palmer

Bert Bell

1969

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

Martin Finning:

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

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

George Marsh:

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

Dave Hodkinson:

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

Alun Stoll:

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

Mike Beloe:

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

Dave Cowell:

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

Joe Pringle:

Bert's green Ford Consul

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

A fitting end in honour of Bert Bell.

Geoffrey Mackenzie

Ann Wareham

1970

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

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

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

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

Keith Morrison

DECEASED STAFF

Dr Trevor Howell Jones 1959-1971

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Dr Alun Davies
(Chester 1961-1964)



-  @UoChesterAlumni
-  @ChesterAlumni
-  @ChesterAlumni
-  University of Chester Alumni

Development and
Alumni Relations



University of
Chester