

# THE HIGH STORRIAN

A Newsletter for High Storrs Alumni - Edition 2 - Spring 2017

## High Storrs Paralympic Hero



Grace Clough with her PE teacher, Mark Bennehan



Inspiring the current students of High Storrs

It was a pleasure to welcome ex-student and Paralympic Gold Medallist, Grace Clough into school in September. Grace posed for photographs with students who were keen to hear her stories about Rio and how she won her medal!



Grace remembers her time at High Storrs fondly, where she represented school at athletics, football and basketball. It was during her time at University that she was talent spotted for rowing, having never even sat in a boat before, and the rest, as they say, is history!

Grace is a fabulous ambassador for rowing, the school and para-sports. She demonstrates strength, determination and confidence; conducting herself in a positive but humble manner.

She only took up rowing in 2013, and is already a Paralympic Games gold medallist and double World Champion. We're so proud of our paralympian hero alumnae.

# WELCOME TO THE HIGH STORRIAN

Welcome to the second edition of our annual Alumni newsletter *The High Storrian*. We hope you enjoy reading about your old school and your fellow High Storrians. High Storrs is very proud to introduce our wonderful new Head teacher, Mrs Claire Tasker.



Claire Tasker: "As Headteacher I will ensure **all** students thrive and achieve all that they can."

I am both honoured and excited to have been appointed as Headteacher of High Storrs School. I have thoroughly enjoyed my first few months at the school getting to know students, staff, parents, families, local Primary schools and the community.

I moved to High Storrs from Tapton School where I was Co-Headteacher and Director of a Teaching School. I thoroughly enjoyed my six years leading Tapton School and am proud

to have worked with staff, parents and students to secure the best ever GCSE and A Level results. We were also named 'Sunday Times Comprehensive of the Year' in 2015. Prior to working at Tapton, I was Assistant Headteacher at Stocksbridge High School for seven years and before that I taught at Notre Dame High School. The vast majority (19 years) of my teaching career has been in Sheffield Schools; I am passionate about this city and all that it offers. Excellent schools are a key part of that offer and there is a history of excellence at High Storrs that I will nurture and build upon.

Throughout my career I have taught many subjects but my main subject is History. I am a graduate of History from the University of Cambridge and my PGCE is from the University of Oxford. I attended an excellent comprehensive school that enabled me to achieve highly and ensured I left with choices. Schools must open a multitude of doors for young people. Every child should leave school with choices and be equipped for their next steps. Truly excellent teaching and learning in every classroom is vital and is absolutely at the heart of my leadership. The development of learning behaviours (e.g. a student's ability to use marking and feedback to improve their next piece of work) are important too and schools must enable

students to develop these behaviours. Good conduct and respectful behaviours are also essential, balanced with an understanding that children are individuals. Finally, opportunities to follow and develop passions in the arts, sport and other areas must not be neglected. High Storrs is a school where students are safe, happy, creative and achieve well – but there is always more that can be done. As Headteacher I will ensure all students thrive and achieve all that they can.

There is much change in education; indeed in the country currently but as an experienced school leader I am confident that I can steer High Storrs deftly through these changes. At heart, High Storrs is a community school that nurtures and challenges young people to grow into well rounded young adults. Whatever government policy dictates, the only question that I will ask is, 'what is the right thing to do for our students?'

Every day as Headteacher at High Storrs is packed full. It is hard to give a full picture of all that goes on in my office and around the building but I would like to share a few details of my time at High Storrs so far. I spend as much of my day as possible in classrooms, on corridors or talking to staff and students. I am working my way around the school observing every teacher and have so far enjoyed 12 Science lessons, 4 English lessons, 5 Modern Foreign Language lessons, 3 PE lessons, 2 Maths lessons, 2 ICT lessons, 5 History lessons, 6 Geography lessons, 2 Classics lessons, 2 RE lessons, 2 Business lessons and 3 Drama lessons! I also believe a Headteacher should teach and so I have the pleasure of three Year 8 History groups – we are currently studying dictatorships and democracies and I have to confess that Wednesday morning in the classroom is the highlight of every week. I also spend every Friday morning registration with students who have been awarded Headteacher's commendations. I call this slot 'Friday Joy' because it is a treat to celebrate the endeavours of our fabulous students. I balance this with Friday afternoons talking to Key Stage 4 students about their progress and discussing how we can work together just to achieve that little bit more!

I love that High Storrs School has such a vibrant and loyal alumni community and I know that you will continue to support the school and contribute to its ongoing success. I look forward to having the opportunity to meet more of you and thank you for your on-going support and interest in this wonderful school.

Claire Tasker



*"As Headteacher I will ensure all students thrive and achieve all that they can." - Mrs C Tasker*





# Have you 'herd' the news?

If you live in Sheffield, you can't have missed the incredible and interactive public art

and fundraising project the 'Herd of Sheffield' through the summer of 2016. Elephants were designed, decorated and displayed around the city in places of interest. After a period of time, they were auctioned off to raise much needed money for Sheffield Hospitals Charity.

One of our creative staff members, Jane Norburn, won a competition to have her design painted onto one of the elephants by artist Jenny Leonard and installed outside Sheffield Train Station. In October all 58 elephants paraded to the Crucible to be auctioned, raising money for the Children's Hospital's new Fluoroscopy Unit and their Artfelt programme. In just over two weeks our incredible students, staff, alumni and local community raised an amazing £2,600 to use to bid on 'Summer'. Sadly we were very quickly outbid and watched her price rise to £6,200. Whilst we were thrilled that the High Storrs community had helped to raise such a huge



'Summer', designed by High Storrs staff, Jane Norburn

figure, we were bitterly disappointed not to be bringing her home. Through the tears, however, we were made aware that Mr and Mrs Prince (who placed the final bid) had continued the bidding on our behalf, adding their donation of £3,600 to ensure 'Summer' would be making the journey back to us. She is now at home in our school hall!

We know that much of the money we raised was very kindly donated by our Alumni, so many thanks to all of you who supported us in our bid.



## HIGH STORRS PRIDE!



On 9th February our school celebrated 'PRIDE Day'. The slogan from our PRIDE Awareness Week was "Take pride in yourself—Celebrating Diversity at High Storrs". Which

we believe is the integral to the ethos of High Storrs.

The event in school included colourful celebrations, with students and staff encouraged to wear brightly coloured clothing, and music in the hall from a local LGBT choir entertaining the masses who came to interact with the thought-provoking information stalls in the hall at lunchtime. Our aim was to raise awareness of issues linked to gender and sexuality. All these endeavours have been complemented by work in PSHCEE lessons.

Our LGBT group, and the brilliant Ms Richards, orchestrated the whole event but many staff and students got involved; for example making cakes to sell and manning the stalls. We were also overwhelmed by just how many organisations were keen to give up their time and join us. The school hall was packed throughout lunchtime as students

picked up leaflets, chatted to the varied and numerous organisations, ate cakes, bought rainbow merchandise and stopped to hear the fabulous 'Out Aloud' singing group.

Conversations with the stallholders after the event were mutually thankful. We received many compliments about our students and two separate individuals commented on how different their own school experience would have been if there had been such warm and positive events like this in their schools.

PRIDE Day is so important to our community because it is all about diversity and inclusion. Such commitment to openness and tolerance have never seemed so important in schools and beyond...



## HIGH STORRS IN 2017 - KEY FACTS

- ⇒ 58% of our Sixth Form entrants attended High Storrs main school
- ⇒ 31% of our students are from non-white ethnic backgrounds
- ⇒ 6 students this year are going on to Oxbridge Universities
- ⇒ In 2016, 16% of our Y13 leavers achieved 3 A\*-A grades at A2 Level
- ⇒ In 2016, the Y13s achieved A\*-B in 51% of the A Levels they sat.
- ⇒ This year there are 1,612 students on roll, with 1,198 in Main school and 414 in Sixth Form
- ⇒ In 2016, 65% of Y11s gained 5 A\*-C GCSE grades including Maths & English
- ⇒ In 2016, 98.72% of Y11 students in school achieved at least one qualification

### MURSTON BAPCHILD and the Braxton Hicks

Old time country music with Flaming Fiddle, Death-defying Dobro, Devilish Double Bass, Gorgeous Guitar, Virtuoso Vocals & Heavenly Harmonies!

Have a yodelling good time & the chance to dance!"

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### S6 FOODBANK FUNDRAISER!

~ An evening of MUSIC & ENTERTAINMENT ~

Murston Bapchild & the Braxton Hicks, PLUC, The Glummer Twins

7.30pm Saturday 8 APRIL 2017  
at CROOKES SOCIAL CLUB  
Mulehouse Rd, Sheffield S10 1TD

Tickets £10 from [wegottickets.com](http://wegottickets.com)

GARDENERS  
REST



## **A Trip Down Memory Lane from Alex Jennings (1951)**

I have just turned 83 and High Storrs Grammar School for Boys started me off on a wonderful, dare I say privileged, career in aviation, as aircrew with both the RAF and civilian airlines. I couldn't have managed it without the Chemistry, Physics, Biology and Maths qualifications I gained whilst studying in Sixth Form. The stunning sights that can be seen through the front window of a cockpit are denied to most mortals.

Thank you Dr. Mack and your staff members; you ran a tight ship but it paid off for most boys.

Life has by no means stopped and I am still fully and mentally occupied with a few physical limitations. I passed my Motorcycle test on my 16<sup>th</sup> birthday, and my car driver's licence on my 17<sup>th</sup> birthday, 6<sup>th</sup> December 1950, while still in school. I still have my original, but long-lapsed licences, in their red hard-backed covers. Yes, I now hold the ubiquitous plastic card which hasn't the same feel. I may soon have to surrender both owing to failing eyesight.

I think I have written before about the pranks that we played on staff and each other. I have also written about the differences between the ethos then and now, inside and outside the school gates.

I was saddened by a system that allowed me only two foreign languages, out of a choice of five. I opted for French and Latin but taught myself German later on. I have benefited greatly from Latin but now wish that Greek had also been on the curriculum. I can still struggle with a smattering of self-taught Spanish and Italian.

My use of high German was dropped in favour of Swiss German when I met the girl who was to become my wife for 42 years.

Later, at the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> year and 10 subjects up to School Cert level (Northern Universities Joint Examination Board), A-stream, once again, were obliged to make the hardest of all choices, join the Physics, Chemistry, Biology and Maths stream or the "Modern stream" that embraced, Languages, Geography, History, Handicrafts and the Arts. I wanted a mix but the system was too inflexible. No cherry picking!

I have to admit, I made minimum use of the excellent public library adjacent to the Graves Art Gallery near the top of Norfolk Street, a regret I harbour to this very day although I used it later for research into my family tree, a hobby that I still practice online.

I cannot share with you the fantasy I kept in the final years concerning my childhood sweetheart who attended the girls' wing, same year as me. It culminated in a bitter-sweet denouement as we went our separate ways after leaving High Storrs. Before we arrived at High Storrs, we shared desks at Carrfield Infant and Junior schools through the war years. It would be inappropriate to mention her name.

### **A message from Ms. Pender**



Schooldays are an important and formative time for us all. It is lovely to hear from ex-students and their different journeys post-High Storrs. We hope that you will enjoy the stories and anecdotes and be interested in current school news. Please keep in touch with us; our database is growing so please help us spread the word and remember, you are always welcome to come back to your old school. The people may be different, the building may have changed but our core purpose remains the same; to educate and prepare our students for the wider world and to equip them with values to make them excellent citizens. Our High Storrians make us feel very proud.

# Jessica Ransom BAFTA winner



In 2015 our alumnae, Jessica Ransom (left 2000) was awarded *Best Children's Performer* at the Children's BAFTA awards for her part as Mary, Queen of Scots in the TV show *Horrible Histories* (pictured top left in character and below left at ceremony).



Jessica, who is a professional actress, is perhaps best known for her role as medical receptionist in the ITV drama *Doc Martin* (pictured bottom right). She has also appeared alongside Bruce Willis in a Sky TV advert, and in the television shows *Fast and Loose*, *Our Zoo* and *The Armstrong and Miller Show*.

In 2013 we were honoured to welcome Jessica back to her old school when she presented our Y13 leavers with their certificates and awards at the Celebration of Success evening (pictured left with Claire Pender).



## Rising Young Star

Since James Youle was named as High Storrs School's "Sports Personality of the Year" for 2015/2016 he has continued to develop his skills as a badminton player on the national circuit. At the start of the season he was selected for Sport England's Talented Athlete Scholarship Scheme (TASS) and is currently training for 8 hours each week, plus attending extra sessions at Loughborough University in the school holidays. In addition, he has a personalised fitness programme at Sheffield Hallam University gym and is supported by a nutritionist, physiotherapist and sports psychologist so he can work on all aspects of his game.

In February this paid off as James achieved a career best result at the U19 National Championships in Milton Keynes by winning the silver medal in the men's doubles with partner Alex Cook from Oxfordshire. They overcame an established England pair 21-17, 21-13 in the semi-final before conceding to England's top pair in the final following a strong performance. James also reached the quarter-finals in mixed doubles.

This achievement was preceded by winning a gold medal in men's doubles at the Nottinghamshire Derby Under 19 Gold tournament in January. Since September 2016 James has reached the finals, semi or quarter final positions in singles, doubles or mixed in all of the Under 19 and Senior tournaments he has competed in, making it his best badminton season to date. He is also a key player in the Yorkshire senior team.

James is a Level 1 badminton coach and enjoys coaching younger players at Yorkshire training events and also at his club, Abbeydale. He has applied for a Sports Scholarship at the University of Nottingham and hopes to take up his place there in September to study Geography.



## Recent Sports News from High Storrs School

Y8 Boys - Sports Hall Athletics - joint winners in Sheffield. 5<sup>th</sup> in South Yorkshire

Y7 Boys - Sheffield Cross Country champions

Y7 Boys - South Yorkshire School Games Athletics champions

Y11 Boys - Reached the Basketball national quarter finals and finished runners up in Sheffield

Y8 Boys - Football - semi finalists in the Sheffield Cup

Y7 Girls - Sheffield Football finalists

Y11 Girls - Sheffield Football finalists

Y7 Girls - 3rd in Sheffield Cross Country and South Yorkshire School Games

Beth Ryan (Y8) A big well done from the PE Department on being selected for the U14s South Yorkshire Football team!



## ‘Great Heights’ by John Sowerby (left 1964)

I am a 1964 graduate of High Storrs currently living at 7,600ft in the San Juan Mountains of Southern Colorado, USA.

A retired engineer, I ski in the winter and hike in the mountains in the summer. I am married with one son and having a blast skiing with my 3 1/2 and 6 year old grandsons while they tear up the slopes on their snowboards.

I have to credit my love of mountaineering and skiing to Alan (Archie) Woods, a Maths teacher at High Storrs. Archie formed a school climbing club when I was in the third form, managed to get the school to buy a hemp rope and started to teach us to climb on Burbage Edge. We soon spread our wings to Stanage, Froggatt and the other Millstone Edges with plenty of great hikes on Kinder Scout and Bleaklow. An early highlight was the first of several trips to the Lake District where I was given the privilege of leading the crux pitch on Bowfell Buttress in Langdale.

I recall only two serious accidents, both involving teachers. The first was a relatively easy route on Burbage where our Latin teacher, inspired by Archie to join us, fell and broke both ankles. Unfortunately he never returned to High Storrs. The other incident was a teacher from another school who was leading a pitch on Stanage while I was belaying half way up the route. He nearly hit me as he fell past me but fortunately reached the end of the rope before he hit the ground. He suffered a broken arm and I had

some rope burns, but we took him to hospital, returned to Stanage and successfully completed the climb.

I also recall, when I was in the Sixth Form, officially getting the day off school to join a search party looking for several boy scouts who were lost and died on Kinder Scout while participating in the Four Inns overnight hike. That was a tragedy that has stayed with me to this day as I consider the risk level of my mountain activities.

My climbing and hiking experience also helped me secure a place on the British Schools Exploring Society expedition to Iceland in 1964, another trip with many memories.

The skiing was another story. I acquired a pair of wooden skis with bear trap bindings at a jumble sale. One rainy day in Sheffield we set off for the North Yorkshire Moors where Archie believed snow was falling. We found a snowy field with a suitable elevation gain and spent several hours trudging up through the snow and sort of skiing down and stopping where the slope tapered out.

That was one of my few attempts to ski but I got the bug. My brother, Richard Sowerby, at High Storrs about three years after me, now lives in British Columbia, Canada and we take it in turns to visit each other and ski every year. I feel very fortunate to be able to spend the time with him enjoying the sibling rivalry.



## Mr Presgrave and the Friendship of the Long Distance Runners

### John Bailey (left 1956)



N Schools Champions Lyme Park Disley 1956

In the late Spring of 1949, my father and I set out one evening on a journey of great significance. Our ascending steps took us up Sharrow Lane, Psalter Lane, Ecclesall Road and then, the final assault, Ringinglow Road itself with High Storrs at its apex. This was my school of choice, picked unseen, by me and my wondering family. My father never did see it again, nor my mother or brother. The 1944 Education Act tripartite model of Grammar,

Technical and Secondary Modern schools to meet the country's post-war needs was already making its impact. High Storrs had written to me with a list of things I must certainly not do and required a written promise that I should remain at the school until I was 16 at the earliest. That is why we were there; I do not recall welcoming speeches, trips to Science Labs to see young Einsteins at work, nothing about mentors and kindly pastoral staff. But we both took a liking to Mr Presgrave who did indeed seem kind and modest in this, to me, alien world of larger than life characters.

The agreed years passed by, I wouldn't say flew, and I entered the Sixth Form via a curious trap door called V Remove, which is another story. A much more satisfying and pleasant life was about to unfold, a significant part of which was my joining the illustrious Harriers, a team without the prestige or status of the various football and cricket Elevens, but over a number of years did not expect to lose. In 1956 we beat Manchester Grammar School and King Edwards and were Northern Grammar Schools champions.

Although the Harriers more or less organised themselves, a master was necessary for purposes of authentication and the issue of bus tickets; Mr Presgrave was that man. For two terms per school year, over many years, he gave up his Saturday mornings to accompany eight or so obsessive cross country runners to playing fields across the Sheffield, North Derbyshire, Cheshire and Manchester areas; watch them line up, dash off, to reappear 40 minutes later, filthy and exhausted.

For many of us, the benefits of Mr Presgrave's gift of his time and loyalty, have been long lasting. I won no medals but ran for my college, university and the RAF; I am in touch with five friends made at that time and last year visited a sixth now living in Australia. Some Harriers did win medals, but we all share very happy memories.

I wonder if Mr Presgrave knew how much he was giving us. Did we say thank you? I do hope we did. Perhaps that acknowledgment came later, when one understood that teachers also had lives to live, had shopping to do and childcare to manage. I am thanking him now and others like him. The Harriers ran for miles but it was Mr Presgrave went the extra mile. John Bailey 1949 - 1956

## Do you remember this face?

Everyone remembers at least one teacher from their time at school. That special person who stood out for whatever reason! Well you may be pleased to hear that we still have a number of teachers who have worked at High Storrs for over 20 years, so have a look - see if you remember any of them!



**Mrs E Hetherington**  
1979



**Miss G Johnson**  
1985



**Mr M Fahidi**  
1986



**Mr M Joy**  
1986



**Mrs L Raven**  
1989



**Mr M Akram**  
1990



**Mrs S O'Connor**  
1990



**Mr M Bennehan**  
1991



**Mr J Williamson**  
1991



**Ms C Pender**  
1992

## Memories from...

### Leslie F Ball (left 1958)

1. I was in Sixth Form studying chemistry at a time when the established teachers were Messrs Ridler, known as 'Alf', and Stanford. I recall a day when, to our surprise, we were introduced to a relatively young new teacher whose first request was for an alphabetical list of pupils. Knowing I was first in line I stood up and brazenly announced "Ball ... Sir". The teacher took exception to my comment and sent me to "see" George Mack, our Headmaster. So in anticipatory fear I descended the stairs to George's office. "Why are you here, Ball". I told him the story and he enquired, "Tell me, Ball, did you deliberately merge your Ball Sir response in order to create a laugh for you classmates". "Yes Sir, I'm afraid I did". I expected the worst, but to my surprise, George said, "In appreciation of your honesty there will be no punishment, however, when you return to your class I want you to behave as if you have been caned". As I rejoined my classmates, holding my buttocks, I was cheered by my classmates to the bewilderment of the teacher who, in my temporary absence, had been told in no uncertain terms that "Ball" was in fact my true surname.

2. I was in the Sixth Form and studying Physics under the established teachers Messrs Robinson, known as 'Pole', and Smith, 'Pharaoh'. One afternoon, immediately after lunch, we took our places for a lesson by 'Pole'. Before the class settled down to the science, 'Pole' told us "You may all be interested in a news item I have just heard on the wireless. There have been reports that the Russian Sputnik has just crashed to Earth in France. In fact it's "landed" on a post-office and destroyed all the French-letters". Not being sure of 'Pole', and certainly in awe of him, the class remained silent for a while. Before he remarked, with a cheeky smirk, "Isn't anyone going to laugh. Don't any of you know what I'm talking about". From that time on, we realised that 'Pole' wanted to treat us as up and coming adults. Consequently his excellent physics lessons became more enjoyable to all.

### John Priest (left 1960)

I am not sure my memories would be of great interest to many, but I was proud to attend High Storrs. My father had attended the Central School and I was taught by one of his teachers, Mr Campbell (Geography).

I remember Mr Coulson arriving as my English teacher and also the master who introduced Rugby Union to a soccer school. I had been on the fringe of the first soccer team and was glad to become part of the first ever High Storrs Rugby team. We were all basically still soccer players and Mr Coulson had a job to get us to pick the ball up and run! The rugby pitch had a pronounced slope and the lower part quickly became inches deep in mud so running was not so easy. Our first serious inter school fixture was away to Doncaster Grammar school. Mr Sargent (music) took us on the train and we lost heavily! We improved, however, and the highlight for me was a victory against King Edwards on their pitch near Ringinglow. I have a photo of our team with the names.

I was also in the 1<sup>st</sup> Cricket team under the eye of Mr Tickner and have memories of great team spirit and school pride. Indeed, each Monday assembly included a report of the sports results and invariably it was a catalogue of success, especially in soccer, cross country and cricket.

I also had to visit Mr Mack a couple of times but even more fearful was Mr Griffin!

Overall, good memories of fellowship and scholarship.



# Alumnus, Jeff Rawle, inspires budding young actors

Year 13 Theatre Studies students were visited by High Storrs alumnus, Jeff Rawle (1960s). Jeff has starred in *Drop the Dead Donkey*, *Hollyoaks*, *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire* and has just finished a highly acclaimed run at Sheffield Crucible in Samuel Beckett's 'Waiting for Godot'. Jeff gave an inspiring talk about life in the industry and took part in a lively Q and A session, the students enjoyed his sage advice and witty anecdotes. Jeff left High Storrs in 1968 and his career in performing has spanned a lifetime. Jeff's advice to the A Level students is relevant regardless of your career paths:



your way. Hone your skills and work for what you love and it won't let you down. Failure is part and parcel of this industry and you will find yourself getting turned down frequently, let the manner in which you pick yourself up be what defines you. It might take you several times, but if you've got the skills, one day your talent will get you the break you deserve."

Josie, A Level Student, really enjoyed the experience. "It was great to hear about Jeff's experiences and his process of acting. He had such sound advice about handling auditions which will be really useful. It was inspiring to sit down with someone I'd just seen performing on the Crucible stage!"



"Just do it! Don't find an excuse not to work, accept that the industry is tough, but that you need to find

## Memories from Michael H B Morton (left 1959)

In my time at High Storrs, the Senior Physics Master was Mr H Robinson, known as "Pole". He was a good scientist with a splendid way of making complex concepts clear using vivid imagery - the Earth spins like a giant off-spinner but very slowly - wouldn't deviate much even at Old Trafford. He enthused you to his subject and dispelled fears of it.

He was also a passionate cricket fan. He once complained to my father that the School was not recruiting enough cricketers (to play for his Staff team). One day a friend and I decided that a day at Bramall Lane watching Yorkshire play cricket was better use of our time. As we sat relaxing on the Members' Pavilion balcony, there was a tap on my shoulder. I turned and saw 'Pole'. "Morton, shouldn't you be at school?". Then he paused, "Oh, and so should I". He climbed over the seats and sat next to us for the rest of the day, and putting a finger to his lips, said: "Mum's the word" and so it has been to this day until now. .

## Update from Guy Carlson (left 1979)

I was at High Storrs between 1972 and 1979. I believe that I was the last person to play the solo at the speech day at the City Hall, or so Tim Mardell informed my father. My father was Head of Educational Studies at what is now Sheffield Hallam University, so he knew most of the teachers throughout Sheffield, and I couldn't get away with anything as it would get back to him! After leaving High Storrs I went to the Royal College of Music and then onto Bretton Hall College to do my PGCE. I then moved across the Pennines to Liverpool, where I took up a teaching post at Anfield Boys school. During my time I played for various music groups in Liverpool, Widnes, Wigan, Warrington and St Helens. These included playing for amateur dramatic societies, and even the Liverpool Opera Society. I was a

member of the Liverpool Music School, which met every Saturday and was the conductor of the Junior band and coach to the Senior band, along with coaching the Brass section of the Liverpool Youth Orchestra. My real claim to fame is that I have played the French Horn with the Liverpool Philharmonic. I have been happily married to Christine, née Price, who was in the same year as me, for 31 years. She is the Manager of the Community Equipment Store for the whole of the Wirral. We have a son who is running a nursery establishment, and a daughter who is a Teaching Assistant to pupils with special needs. Both of them enjoy their work. Myself, I am retired, albeit early, but with all the sport I played at school and in staff teams my body is slowly telling me to take it easy. I do not complain as we have at least three trips to France this year already booked.



## Where I am now, by Janet Ibbotson ( left 1969)

My time at High Storrs was a disaster. I was resolute in staying at the bottom of the bottom class throughout and left, aged 16, with 4 mediocre GCE "O" levels. No sports-star, hating my butchers-stripe summer uniform and bright green beret, I broke most of the school rules. My headmistress was Miss Furtado and Domestic Science teacher Miss "pour boldly girls" Hogg. Miss Russell, my French teacher, was a joy, but I probably disappointed even her. My history teacher threw a book at me. My RE teacher reported me as "bumptious"

My lucky break really came with my first job at Sheffield University's Library and a decision to break off my far too early engagement. This was followed by a year at secretarial college before moving to London where I spent the 70s and 80s partying and slowly climbing the career ladder; first in advertising and then at the Association of Photographers. In the 90s I travelled extensively for the Design and Artists' Copyright Society as its Deputy Chief Executive. I then became a consultant, taking on the post of CEO of the British Copyright Council in 1998 (a post I still hold), advised BECTU (the union for cinema & TV trades) on copyright matters, doing research work on the creative industries and another 18 month stint back at the AOP as its Managing Director in the mid-2000s. My career path was fun and ultimately successful but I could have got there a lot quicker and probably gone a lot further if I'd only taken advantage of the education offered by High Storrs.

I never married but have a partner and live and work remotely from the Greek island of Skopelos (where they filmed most of Mamma Mia!) with stints in London in between. Retirement looms but it looks like I might have a new career in Mediterranean garden design.

I would love to hear from anyone in 1968/69's class 5F.



# High Storrs School in 2017

In 2011 High Storrs School's multi-million pound refurbishment project under Building Schools for the Future (BSF) completed and gave us a beautifully refurbished original building, with two new builds on the North and South sides, a public art installation, as well as removing all temporary buildings and other extensions. We now have state of the art facilities in all classrooms, as well as wonderful new practical spaces such as Dance and Drama studios, Art & Design rooms and a bright and airy library.





## High Storrs Education Prepares One for Anything! David Thornton (left 1963)

I was a student at High Storrs Grammar School between 1956 and 1963. In those days, the teachers strode down the corridors with their graduation gowns flowing majestically behind them! However, some of them, less majestically, occasionally used the gown tails to scrub the classroom 'blackboards' clean of chalk!

The main theme here though, is that a High Storrs education will help to open up opportunities that one may never have expected, or even imagined! In this regard, I am extremely grateful for the excellent public education that I received there. It led me to a BSc. (1st Class Honours) in Physics; a PhD. in theoretical solid-state physics; a few years as a Post-doctoral Research Fellow at the Theoretical Physics Institute, University of Alberta, Canada; and, for the last 21 years of my career, to be the Director of Canada's Environmental Science & Technology Centre.

In the early 70s, an increased public concern about the environment resulted in me taking an opportunity to participate in environmental research, initially on heat-flow calculations related to utility pipes and dams in permafrost soils, and subsequently on oil spills in the Arctic. One of my first Arctic studies involved the release of crude oil under first-year sea ice (ice that forms on the sea surface during one winter). The objective was to see if oil spilled under the ice (for example from an undersea oil-well blowout) came to the surface through brine channels in the ice, and could be cleaned up. Indeed, the oil did surface, and we were able to burn off most of it when it collected on melt pools on the ice during the Spring. The research camp was at the southern end of Cape Parry, which juts into the Beaufort Sea/Arctic Ocean. I remember standing all alone in the noon winter twilight at about  $-40^{\circ}\text{C}$  on the desolate shore of the frozen Arctic Ocean looking at wooden grave markers of half a dozen young sailors who died there in the late 1800s. Their summer whaling vessel had sadly

been trapped over a winter in the unforgiving sea ice, and they had died. I remember saying to myself "what's a theoretical physicist from Yorkshire doing in a place like this?" There were many other exciting Arctic trips both before and after that, with occasional similar internal self-questioning!

For example:

A US Distant Early Warning (DEW) Line Station was located at the northern tip of Cape Parry. Numerous such DEW Line Stations, with massive radar dishes, were located along the northern coast of North America for the detection of nuclear ballistic missiles from the USSR! On one trip to our camp, we were flying from Inuvik in a small one-engine plane, and I overheard a voice from the pilot's earphones. It asked where we were headed, and the pilot gave our camp location. The voice then said "This is the Cape Parry DEW Line Station, and you made a 180 degree error in your latest radio beacon flight redirection, and you are currently headed straight out over the Arctic Ocean!"

My final major Arctic experience was the \$20-million, 4-year international Baffin Island Oil Spill (BIOS) Project at Cape Hatt on the northern coast of Baffin Island. We examined the fate and effects of crude oil on Arctic shores and in the aquatic near-shore environment, and researched clean-up techniques. As part of the planning, I had the rare opportunity to visit more than a dozen Arctic communities along the coasts of Labrador and Baffin Island.

A good school education is the best gift that one can have during one's formative years!



*David Thornton (right) with the remains of a polar bear at the ice-floe camp in the Arctic*

## INSPIRATIONAL TALKS BY EX-STUDENTS TO Y12

On Monday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2016, we welcomed a group of alumni back to school to meet our Sixth Formers as part of an annual event focusing on career paths and opportunities.

An aspirational keynote speech was delivered by alumnus, Justin Rowntree, who is the Manager of Silversmiths Restaurant in Sheffield City Centre. This was followed by a variety of Question and Answers



sessions led by an alumnus about their careers and professional journeys. Students were able to sign up to the talk that they felt most interested in. They were able to learn about 'Life Beyond High Storrs' and different career paths including Law, Police, Politics, Accountancy, Digital Media and Engineering.

The group of previous students enjoyed a tour of the school and a lunch in the students' canteen! Many of them hadn't been back to school since they had left and were thrilled to see the benefits of our Building Schools for the Future refurbishment.

We are already in the process of organising our 2017 talks and have been overwhelmed by the responses from ex-students willing to come and take part.

If this is something you feel you would be able to do for our students in coming years, then please get in touch.

### Sheffield Youth Opera Group - The Reunion! - Elizabeth Birkby

Fifty years ago the Sheffield Youth Opera Group was formed following an enormously successful joint (Boys' and Girls') school production of the Yeomen of the Guard in 1967. As there was no chance of doing another opera, many of the pupils decided to form the Sheffield Youth Opera Group and invite other secondary schools to join.

This was a huge undertaking as we ran the entire group ourselves, producing five extremely successful Gilbert and Sullivan Operas and several concerts of a

very high standard over a five year period.

This year we have decided to have a 'Fifty Years On' Reunion on 30<sup>th</sup> September and are currently trying to contact former members of the group.

Our contact details are:

John Wade

[j.wade@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:j.wade@sheffield.ac.uk),

Richard Humphrey

[richumf@btinternet.com](mailto:richumf@btinternet.com)

Elizabeth Birkby

[ehbirkby2002@hotmail.com](mailto:ehbirkby2002@hotmail.com)

(née Allison)

*The*  
**Gilbert and Sullivan**  
*Operas*

## Where I Am Now



### Frank Yates (left 1937)

"My modest item of news is that I am now a Chevalier of the Legion d' Honneur. When the

French Consul pinned the handsome insignia on me, he gave a short address in French to which, remembering my time at High Storrs, I replied with an appropriate 'Merci'!"

*Frank is possibly one of the oldest surviving High Storrians at the age of 96!*

### Tim Squire (left 1971)

"I have had a very wide range of "careers". After leaving High Storrs for Cambridge in 1971, I spent 3 years studying for a degree in Engineering and then worked for Ferranti developing weapons systems for the Tornado fighter/ bomber. Another 3 years working on a "secret" carpet weaving machine and then 5 years working at Sheffield University Psychology Department for the Medical Research Council during the early stages of computers in medicine. The next 2 years were spent designing Technology Teaching Equipment and then I ran the family heavy engineering business near Sheffield. After the firm folded in 1992 I trained to teach Maths at Sheffield University and spent my first teaching practice at High Storrs before I got a job at Silverdale then Wickersley and finally Wath Comprehensive before I "retired" in 2011. Since then I have tutored Maths in Sheffield, including a few students from High Storrs. While at Silverdale I organised and accompanied several sixth form trips to Cambridge including 2 or 3 to my own college . I also got involved in the initiative to raise the numbers of state school students attending Cambridge, specifically Engineering.

**Leslie Evans** was appointed as Permanent Secretary to the Scottish Government in 2016. Leslie is the first woman to hold the post and is one of just 30 female permanent secretaries in the history of the UK civil service. She is the most senior civil servant and is the principal policy adviser to the First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon, and secretary to the Scottish cabinet.

We are thrilled to learn that Leslie will be returning to her school later in the year to give a talk to our Sixth Form students.

### Ben Ireland (left 2006)

In October 2016, Ben was awarded with Midlands Daily News Reporter of the Year for his work at the Nottingham Post. Ben also devoted a day of his time back in 2015 to impart his journalistic experience to our Y12s in an inspirational talk.



Well done Ben!

**Mushraf Raouf (left 2012)** has recently been back in to High Storrs doing a work-based placement for two weeks. He is currently studying PE at Leeds Beckett University, with a view to becoming a PE teacher one day. Mushraf "Mushy P" spent the two weeks in school shadowing PE staff, seeing a range of girls and boys PE.

**Andrew Cook (left 1968)** was knighted in November 2016 for political services to the "Remain" campaign. Andrew is the Chairman of the engineering firm *William Cook*.

**Professor Timothy Evans** is a professor of intensive care medicine and a consultant in intensive care and thoracic medicine. He holds multiple positions on national committees and advisory panels relating to his areas of expertise. As part of his training, Professor Evans completed a Medical Research Council Travelling Fellowship at the University of California, San Francisco, from 1984 to 86. Professor Evans has raised more than £10 million in research funds since 1990.



### Wasim Ahmed (left 2009)

Wasim was recently interviewed by BBC Radio Sheffield detailing how he overcame his social anxiety in order to deliver over 20 talks across the UK and Europe. Wasim is a PhD student at the University of Sheffield looking at health on social media, and he has a BA in Philosophy and an MSc in Information Systems.



In the last year Wasim has delivered talks to Leeds Beckett University, the Department for Work and Pensions Government Office, the School of Health at the University of Sheffield, an event at Media City Salford (where the BBC and ITV HQs are based).

### Simon Timm (left 1966)

My favourite response to the job interview question 'tell me about yourself' used to be: 'I come from the well-known port of Sheffield'.

I left High Storrs in 1966 half through my A levels to go to Merchant Navy college. Why? Long story, but suffice to say that Mr Mack, the headmaster at the time, wasn't pleased.

After three years at sea, including voyages to Australia, the Far East and North America, I returned to university at the age of 21. And, I'd say, the better for it too. Since then more time at sea, then a career ashore in media - the transition being via a magazine about shipping - as journalist, editor and manager in large corporations, and latterly as owner of my own media businesses.

Don't let them tell you that Sheffield isn't a port of the world.

**Daniel Phung (left 2000s)** is now an up and coming dance artist choreographer and has recently been selected from over 50 applicants to the prestigious Northern Connections programme for 2017, run by the Northern School of Contemporary Dance.

### High Storrs School: A Journey

This wonderful book, printed in 2011 to mark the unveiling of our new school, is available to purchase at a reduced rate of just £2.

The book details the school and pupil history and includes numerous photographs.

If you'd like a copy, please send us a cheque made payable to 'High Storrs School' for the £2 cost of the book and postage charges (see details below) along with your postal address.

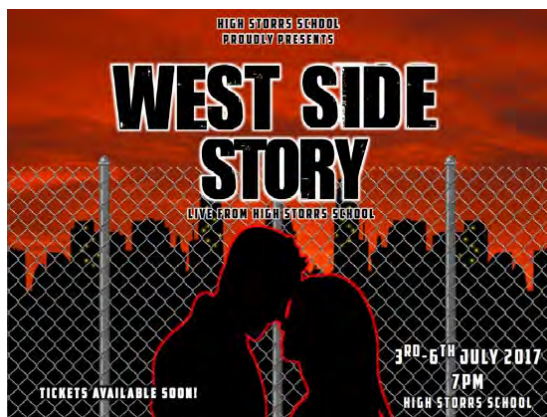
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If you have any questions or queries please email to Rae Helm or Abi Merritt at:

[communications@highstorrs.sheffield.sch.uk](mailto:communications@highstorrs.sheffield.sch.uk)



# Annual School Show



This year, we are very excited to be staging the hit musical, West Side Story in the main hall from 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> July. Anyone who has anything to do with High Storrs School knows the importance of our annual productions, which seem to go from strength to strength each year. This year, the bar has been raised once again. West Side Story is an incredibly complex and challenging musical, particularly the score and choreography. But we enjoy a good challenge, and the students are already putting absolutely everything into the rehearsals. Tickets go on sale on 2<sup>nd</sup> May directly from school. They will sell incredibly

fast, so make sure you keep an eye on our website and social media for updates.

In the meantime, to whet your appetite, here's some snaps from school shows in years gone by...



The Plough & The Stars 1999



Arabian Nights 2004



Guys & Dolls 2003

A Midsummer Night's Dream 1997



## Obituaries & Notices

**Noelle Roberts née Godfrey and Michael Godfrey** (Written by Heather Coombs née Godfrey) In 2014 I wrote mentioning my sister Noelle Roberts née Godfrey 1940 - 1946 and my bother Michael Godfrey 1936ish - early 1940s. Sadly both have now passed away. Michael in Woodhall Spa in July 2015, shortly before his 90th birthday, and Noelle in Walsall, shortly after her 88<sup>th</sup> birthday. Michael, following service in Burma (as was) in WWII, and Manchester University, went into various business ventures and Noelle went to the I.M. Marsh College of Physical Education in Liverpool and thereafter had a very successful teaching career, becoming a school Governor following her retirement. She always kept up with the 'goings on' of the High Storrs Centralians Association. Despite our geographical distance (we remain in Sydney) we were very close and I miss them both enormously.

**Mary Hickes** It is with sadness that we report the death of Mary Hickes, aged 93, in January. Mary was an ex-pupil of High Storrs but gave at least 40 years of her life to the researching and looking after of the archives of this historical school for the Centralians Association, an organisation of past pupils and staff. We are fortunate to have these archives in school and can call upon them to look at the many changes that took place since 1933 when the school was moved here from Leopold Street in the centre of town. Mary was able to help hundreds of ex-pupils and staff, from near and far, who wanted to recollect their fond memories of school. She was also one of the founding members of the annual reunion committee, which was valued by many as they met up with old school friends and were able to relive the memories good and bad as they wandered around our old school. Mary's knowledge and devotion to High Storrs will be missed but her contribution lives on.

**Mike Carver** (Written by Chris Carver) Mike attended High Storrs from 1953 to 58. He slipped peacefully away in late January at a hospice in Kent following a long battle against lung cancer. I followed Mike into High Storrs a couple of years behind, happily anticipating my first morning, my form master took the register:

SEP: "Carver?"

Me: "Yes Sir."

SEP: "I hope you're not related to Michael Carver!"

It's fair to say that neither Mike nor myself made the most of our educational opportunities. However, Mike was talented in so many ways; A Sheffield Cathedral chorister, a natural artist, and self taught about computers and programming. But foremost, he was very accomplished with the written word. He started a group on Facebook entitled 'Hearts and Roots in Sheffield', which has over 1300 members. He kept them entertained with his witty observations on life and in the latter stages with his own battles with illness. Touching the hearts of so many Sheffielders whom he had not met, hundreds responded with affectionate messages to Mike during his illness and to his family in the days after his death.

**Anthony Anderson**, age 71, passed away on October 6<sup>th</sup> after battling cancer. He is survived by his loving wife of 47 years, Pauline, his sons, Stuart and Ian, daughter-in-law, Laura, and grandson, Colin. A graduate of the Royal Aircraft College of Farnborough with a degree in Electrical Engineering, Tony and his family went to America in 1979. He became very active in the test and measurement industry and became president of NCSL in 1996. Tony had two passions in life, the first being soccer. He was a long-time supporter of Sheffield United. He also coached both of his sons' youth soccer teams for many years and took both teams to Europe to play games. His other passion, since the age of 10, was model railroading. He has always had a layout in the house and used to work on it whenever he had any free time.

**Ken Sale (1929–2016)** Former pupil Tim Earl (1960 to 1967) reports the death of his A-level biology teacher Ken Sale: Mr. Sale died last year aged 86. He taught at High Storrs Boys and then High Storrs from Easter 1960 until he retired in 1991. An amazing teacher, Ken ('Mr. Sale' as I think of him) cared for, was interested in and encouraged all his pupils. He was responsible for firing up my interest in the biological sciences. He last taught me 50 years ago but has been with me daily throughout my life. I was fortunate to meet up with him a few months before his death. Ken was as stimulating, challenging and inspirational then as he was when teaching me.





## High Storrs Print For Sale

This stunning print of the school was made by a previous member of staff Steve Owen who also produces prints featuring other famous landmarks in Sheffield.

He sells the prints framed in A4 (£25) and A3 (£30).

Contact him directly should you wish to purchase one.

Phone: 07843 239660 or email: [stevenowen@hotmail.com](mailto:stevenowen@hotmail.com)

### HELP WANTED!

Do you run a business or have a special skill?

We're looking for people who would be willing to donate their time or business service at a reduced rate to help us with things such as photography, printing, digital design, banners, displays and so on.

If you would be able to help with such things, please get in touch with Abi or Rae via [communications@highstorrs.sheffield.sch.uk](mailto:communications@highstorrs.sheffield.sch.uk) or telephone 0114 2670000.

Thank you.

### Other ways to give back to your school

We are often asked by our Alumni: "How can I get involved?" Sometimes it's by giving a talk, or helping a student out with interview prep; but often it's a financial contribution which the school so desperately needs.

In the past alumni have set up legacies in their wills, or sponsored an annual award for the students at their celebration assemblies. There is also the option to sponsor an element of the school year, such as the sports presentation evening, the annual school production or the Christmas Fayre, for example. Of course, we will always welcome your kind donations in whatever form they come. Thank you.

### Edition 1 Feedback

"Brilliant!" Roger Barnard (1951-56)

"Congratulations on the first edition of The High Storrian. As with all start-ups there are teething troubles.

Unfortunately there is an error on page 15. No doubt John Bailey will also contact you but the photo next to his name is in fact a photo of myself that I sent to David France some time ago. Again well done and keep up the good work." David Shepherd (1953-60)

"Many thanks for an easy to read and interesting first of the new style newsletter. Well done." Simon Watt-Smith (1962-69)

"Thank you very much for this, Abi and Rae. This could be a very pleasurable reading for the old uns as the years speed by. One minor quibble: the photo of the well-fed youth that appears alongside my name John Bailey is not of me. David France's, perhaps. I like to play the role of "he's just a poor boy from a poor family" and this prosperous lad just doesn't fit. Best of luck for the future. I'm already thinking about 1949. John Bailey (1956)

"I thoroughly enjoyed reading it. A really good mixture of the old and the new. Especially the link to the write-up by Moe Edwards. I travelled with him on the bus to school when we were in the sixth form, and sat in the same A level classes doing French, German and Latin. The memories came flooding back. Good luck with the new venture." Steve Snook

"Congratulations on the electronic version of 'The High Storrian'. Although I am very grateful to all those who worked hard on the previous newsletter, the more modern version was much needed and I hope it will attract more recent pupils to read it." Robin Towle

"Congratulations on such a splendid first newsletter for alumni (yes, I took Latin from the immortal Colin Smith!). Seriously, a great job, with a good balance of articles depicting the various eras of the school." Roger Gordon 1961

"Many thanks for the complete magazine. It was well produced." Sam Taylor 1949

**We would really value your feedback on this edition.**

**There may have been something you feel was missing, or too much of something else? Good or bad, please do let us know what you think and we promise to consider all suggestions.**

**Email: [communications@highstorrs.sheffield.sch.uk](mailto:communications@highstorrs.sheffield.sch.uk)**

**High Storrs PTA**

# **Car Boot & Plant Sale**

**Sunday 14th May**  
**10am - 1pm**

**With Food & Refreshments**



**Booking Form & More Information**  
from [www.highstorrs.co.uk](http://www.highstorrs.co.uk) @highstorrs  
or telephone 0114 2670000

## **How to stay in touch...**

Website:

<http://highstorrs.co.uk/content/Welcome-High-Storrians/31>

Facebook:

[www.facebook.co.uk/HighStorrsSchool](http://www.facebook.co.uk/HighStorrsSchool)

Twitter:

[@hstorrsalumni](https://twitter.com/hstorrsalumni)

Instagram:

[@highstorrsheffield](https://www.instagram.com/highstorrsheffield)

Email:

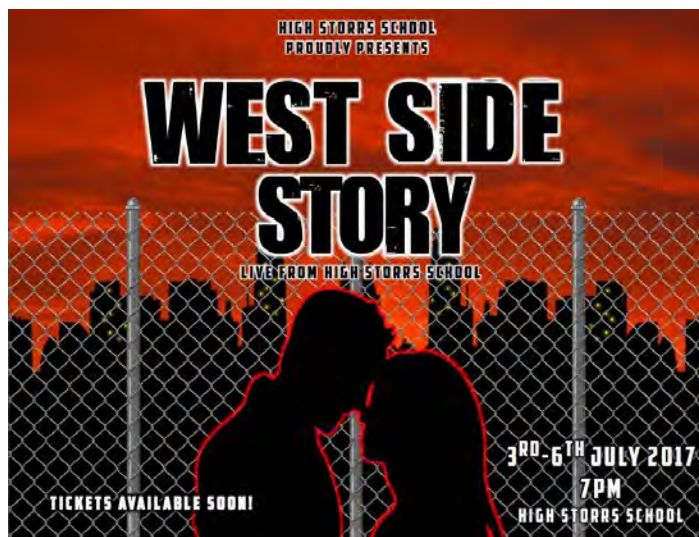
[communications@highstorrs.sheffield.sch.uk](mailto:communications@highstorrs.sheffield.sch.uk)

Call:

[0114 2670000](tel:01142670000)



Tickets for West Side Story go on sale on Tuesday 2nd May.  
Contact the school directly for details on how to get yours.



## **How to get involved...**

As a lifetime member of the High Storrs family, you are always welcome back to your old school, no matter when you left us.

If you'd be interested in getting involved a little with High Storrs, here are a few suggestions:

- ⇒ Come along to one of our many events at school. We hold regular evening and daytime events which attract much community support. To find out what's on, keep an eye on the website, Facebook and Twitter.
- ⇒ If you feel you've got something to 'give back', then come in and give a talk! We hold an annual career-focused day for Year 12 students, so if you feel you've had an inspiring career and want to 'pay it forward' then let us know.
- ⇒ We have regular prize-givings and award ceremonies for our students, so if you feel able to, then perhaps you could consider donating a prize?
- ⇒ Like what you've read? Desperate to get back in touch with long-lost friends? Have some interesting news to share? Then why not contribute to our future editions of *The High Storrian*?
- ⇒ Spread the word! Help us grow this new alumni register by telling your friends and family who went to High Storrs. They can register to be on the database by going to [www.highstorrs.co.uk/our-school/alumni](http://www.highstorrs.co.uk/our-school/alumni)