The Ipswich High School Alumni Newsletter | July 2024

OLD GIRLS' SPRING LUNCH

The Old Girls' Association Spring Lunch was held on Saturday 27th April in the Orangery at Woolverstone Hall.

Approximately 70 Old
Girls were present, and
were joined by several exteachers, including Miss
Denny, Mrs Watson, Mrs
Lutchmayer, Mrs Wilson, Mrs
Perks, Mrs Holmes, Mdme
Kermath and Miss MacCuish.
Special reunion groups
from the classes of 1970,
1982, 1983, 1984 and 1986
attended and the afternoon
was well spent reminiscing
and chatting over a lovely
lunch.





Dan Browning, Head, formally opened the proceedings with a short speech, followed by our guest speaker, Melanie Craig (nee Wesley), Chief Executive of the Suffolk Community Foundation. Melanie attended Ipswich High School at Westerfield Road between 1981 and 1986 and gave a fascinating speech about her life after school, including her voluntary service teaching science to children in Zimbabwe and her 23 years working in the NHS various roles across Essex, Suffolk and Norfolk.

The raffle was a big success and there were some wonderful prizes donated by the committee and various supporters. The monies raised will go towards a fund set up by the OGA which will provide a monetary award for sixth formers at the school, upon application for support.

Next year's Spring Lunch date will be circulated to Old Girls early in the next academic year. It would be lovely to see you there!

PAVILION FUNDRAISER

The Woolverstone Hall Cricket Pavilion is widely regarded as a rather unique and attractive structure and was built by the estate workers for John Berners, under the direction of Mr Charles Tebbit in 1894.

Since then, the pavilion has welcomed hundreds of visiting sports teams and held many post-match teas, first for the Berners' annual 'Cricket Week' and subsequently for Woolverstone Hall School and of course, Ipswich High School.

The first cricket match was played in 1894, Woolverstone Park vs. Colchester Garrison and thus began a Berners' tradition that lasted well into the 1920s. With his extensive sporting and military connections, John Berners was able to host an array of famous cricketers from national and county teams, his own Old Etonian 'Ramblers', as well as various divisions of the British Army. In fact, the Royal Horse Artillery played at Woolverstone just 10 days before WW1 broke out.

The pavilion has remained relatively unchanged since its description from the EADT in June 1895, published as part of their extensive coverage of the week's cricket:

"On the far side, opposite the hall, there stands a permanent pavilion of picturesque design, which perhaps might be said, without overdoing the matter, to harmonise with the sylvan scene. The external walls are of bark and rustic oak, the gable-ends are 'rough cast', and the overhanging roof is covered with thatch. The interior is match-boarded, and a large and lofty dining or luncheon room, which forms the principal apartment, opens out upon a verandah at the front, which commands a splendid view of the field."

Lord Chief Justice, Lord Russell of Killowen was a visitor to the cricket week in 1895, as he was staying at Woolverstone Hall as the guest of Mr Berners (a short while later, the Prime Minister, Lord Salisbury was also a guest at Woolverstone Hall). No doubt the pavilion has been privy to many an interesting conversation, something which led to speculation in the national newspapers when one dignitary was forced to deny that discussions of a parliamentary nature had taken place improperly at the Woolverstone Cricket Week.

Now approaching 130 years since its opening, the pavilion is in need of some attention. Most recently, the school has begun a process of restoration to be tackled in stages. Last year, stage one was completed with the re-thatching of the roof and the school is now moving onto the second, and final stage, focusing on the internal restoration and the creation of a permanent café to be used for sporting fixtures and as a hub for school and community events. The school has been extremely fortunate to receive numerous donations from Woolverstone Hall Old Boys, parents of current students and organisations such as the Adam Peaty Race Clinics, which have enabled the work thus far to be carried out. To mark their gratitude for donations received, the school will be installing a permanent plaque listing the names of all donors giving over £200 to the fund.

If anyone wishes to donate, please follow this link https://gofund.me/84edaae7



PAVILION FUNDRAISER

PAVILION FUNDRAISER

IPSWICH HIGH SCHOOL TARGET £25,000

We are raising for the final phase to restore the historic Woolverstone Hall Cricket Pavilion.

The Cricket Pavilion will be multi-use, with plans to create a unique space to serve our school community. The restored interior of the Cricket Pavilion will incorporate a seating area and café area and will be used for the school and alumni.

We very much want our restored pavilion to be a fundamental part of our school for many more generations to come.



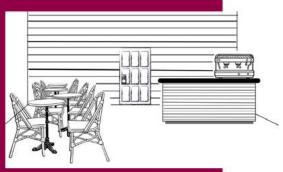
bit.ly/IHSPavilion

OR SEND TO OUR OFFICE:









ANY DONATION OVER £200 WILL HAVE THEIR NAME DISPLAYED ON A PLAQUE INSIDE THE CRICKET PAVILION.



TO DISCUSS A DONATION:

01473 201004

e.hill@ipswichhighschool.co.uk



OLD BOYS REUNION



Old Boys Reunion

If you want to attend the barbecue/dinner, it's £8 a head, and only the names that are on the list would be able to dine with us. Those on the list will be able to purchase a wristband at the Food Kiosk. We also have a banging Disco afterwards! Please email alumni@ipswichhighschool.co.uk if you are interested.

Anyone wanting to camp on the grounds are fully welcome, so bring your tents!!

And there is a BARGE CRUISE on Sunday July 18th organised by the one and only Sir Christopher Suggs! Please contact him if you would like to board his ship.

We look forward to seeing you on the 17th!



FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Berners Family of Woolverstone

William Berners bought Woolverstone Hall and 350 acres in August 1773 for £11,440.

When Geoffrey Berners sold the Woolverstone Hall estate in 1937, it covered 10 square miles of beautiful, unspoilt countryside. In all 6,042 acres, in seven parishes, on the Shotley Peninsula in Suffolk.

The Berners' story starts in the age of Elizabeth 1 and stretches to just before WW2. Their story is one of judicious investment, fortuitous inheritance and profitable marriage. With their wealth they built farms, houses, village halls, extended churches, altered roads and shaped the Shotley Peninsula.

This book contains the information presented in the 250th anniversary exhibition at Berners Hall, Woolverstone in July 2023. Find out about their real story: "The Berners Family of Woolverstone". You'll be surprised!

"An exhaustive account of the Berners family during their ownership of Woolverstone Hall and before. Contains a vast amount of research about the village and family. Highly recommended."

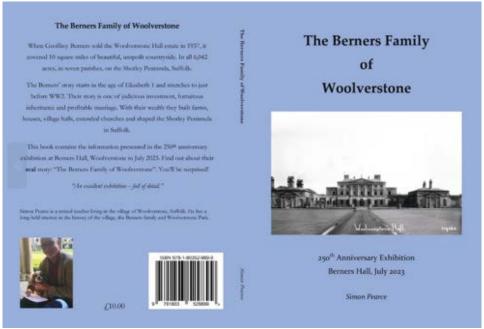
"altogther a nice little volume"

"an excellent exhibition - full of detail"

This luxury A5 volume contains 148 pages, printed on silk paper, contains 12 colour pages and many black and white illustrations.

Cost is just £10. Postage £2.70. Could deliver on Peninsula.

If you would like a copy, please get in touch. simonrpearce@gmx.co.uk or 07825708171.



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Ipswich High School – How it all Began Written by Naomi Limer, Head of English

Education underwent much reform in the reign of Queen Victoria, and the provision of formal education exclusively for girls was undoubtedly one of the most progressive changes. The formation of the Girls' Public Day School Company in 1872 encouraged an approach by Dr B. Chevallier, Dr W.A. Elliston, Mr J.R. Jeffries, Mr R.L. Everett and the Reverend V.V. Granville -Smith of Ipswich with a view to opening a school in the town, of which they were to form the board of guarantors. Their proposal was successful and Ipswich High School for Girls GPDSC opened on the 29th April 1878 under the Headship of Miss Sophie Youngman.



MISS YOUNGMAN, Head Mistress, 1878-1899.

Originally based in the Assembly Rooms on Northgate Street (now the EasyHotel), the initial intake was of 43 pupils. Conditions can't have been easy with shared teaching rooms, limited outdoor space and no electricity, but such was the determination and resilience of young girls seeking an education that the best of their circumstances was made.

There was a large gymnasium on the ground floor which also served as a dining room, dance room, drawing studio and a space for students to spend their breaktimes. The kitchen was next to this, and the Kindergarten room was adjacent to the downstairs cloakroom. Prayers were held at the start of every morning in the large teaching room on the second floor. Red partition curtains were then drawn, and the room was divided for a series of 45 minute lessons for each age range. Miss Youngman's desk sat in the centre of the shared teaching room and when not instructing the older girls, she would quietly observe the various classes held around her. Apparently, she enjoyed parsing (the analysis of sentences) and insisted on clarity of thought and expression from all pupils. Girls were taught Latin and modern foreign languages, art, music and at the specific direction of Miss Youngman, all were to study at least one year of physiology. It is perhaps no surprise that so many of the early pupils of Ipswich High School went on to study these subjects at university, with an impressive number winning scholarships

for Oxford, Cambridge and London universities.

Afternoons were set aside for examination prep, needlework, gymnastics and tennis (at nearby courts or private houses lent for the occasion) and at 4pm classes were dismissed with day pupils going home and boarders returning to one of the boarding houses in town.



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FROM THE ARCHIVES

Initially, there was no uniform except at the annual prize giving when pupils wore white cotton dresses with cherry red sashes. Once the school had been established for a few years, a winter uniform of a navy blue serge dress with red smocking was introduced, the summer uniform consisted of a white and blue cotton frock with a navy cardigan and a boater hat.

Improvements were made to the premises over the 21 years of Miss Youngman's headship with the addition of extra classrooms and a more sizeable playground enabling the school roll to increase significantly.

Pupils spoke very fondly of Miss Youngman. According to an Old Girl, Ethel Agnes Palmer, whose memories were recorded in the school newsletter of 1928, "her presence compelled rather than commanded; it radiated, not outward brilliance, but an inner fire of spirit which burned up all smallnesses, and kindled in those who responded the white flame of her ideals. She saw visions and dreamed dreams in advance of her time, and as we look back on our lives and see what in them of good we owe to her, we cannot but take courage and thank God for her."

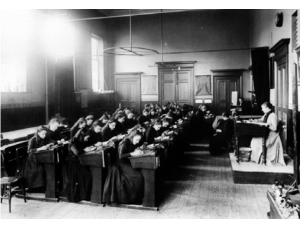
Recalling Miss Youngman in 1957, another Old Girl, Elsie Hoare said "she was gentle in her speech, and I never saw her lose her temper or get flustered...she could be firm and stern if occasion demanded."

By the time Sophie Youngman retired in 1899, the school had grown into a thriving and highly regarded institution which shaped its pupils into bright, industrious and pioneering young women. In 2019, a blue plaque was unveiled in her honour at the site of the Assembly Rooms.

The next Headmistress was Miss Kennett, who continued to strengthen the school's success and due to the steady increase in numbers, had secured new premises in Westerfield Road, Ipswich by 1907.









RICHARD MARSH INTERVIEW

Firstly, a little write up about yourself

I am a 21 year old Composer, Musician and Producer. My interest in music began late, at 14 years old when I rediscovered the Piano; having tried learning it when I was younger. After a few years learning piano and guitar I started writing my own music. I then wanted to understand how to best record and edit sound; hence, I got heavily involved in music production.

Music is an ongoing passion of mine and is slowly turning into a career, another hobby which I find deeply engaging is psychology. Away from my studies I am a keen runner with a good friend group and I enjoy participating in the social life that university has to offer.



Recently, I have been a live mix engineer at some festivals, have had my music played on BBC Radio and am a regular collaborator with others in the industry. I am going into my third year studying Music Business & Production at the University of Kent.

Additionally, I regularly collaborate with ex-pupil Lizzie Morgan. Lizzie is an excellent singer and currently features on my tracks Soul and Le Trajet. If you wish to listen please follow this link; https://soundcloud.com/richard-marsh-423646553

What year did you join / leave?

I joined the sixth form in 2019 and I left in 2021.

What were your favourite classes?

I did not take Music as one of my Sixth Form subjects. My A-level subjects were Religious Studies, Business Studies and Psychology. Psychology was my favourite and I enjoyed reading around the subject in my free time.

Who was your favourite teacher & why?

I am grateful to all my teachers for helping me have a successful Sixth Form experience at IHS. I greatly enjoyed the debates in Religion, Philosophy, and Ethics under the guidance of Mrs Chandler-Mears. Mrs Cole would help inspire wider reading around the subject of Psychology and I enjoyed bringing that additional knowledge into classroom discussions. Mrs Mayhew's teaching made it easier than I had anticipated for me to develop the skills and knowledge required for Business Studies and this has stood me in good stead for the Business element of my degree subject. My form tutor, Mrs Vickers, was always there to support us and I am indebted to Mrs Chillingworth for influencing my career path!



Continued on next page

RICHARD MARSH INTERVIEW

How did Ipswich High School shape you into the person you are today?

If you knew me when I joined Ipswich High School Sixth Form, it is likely you would describe me as shy. My confidence has grown in leaps and bounds and I do think IHS provided the

foundation for this growth in confidence. The school encouraged me to be the best I can be, both as a person and academically.

Did Ipswich High School give you the support you needed to follow your career? If so, how? If not, how could it have been improved?

Ipswich High School was pivotal in directing my

career path. I took both Piano and Guitar lessons at the school, alongside some musical extra-curricular activities. At the time, my heart was set on pursuing a career in psychology. However, after conversations with the Head of Music, Mrs Chillingworth, I decided to do a one year course in music production at a London music institute. The school helped to nurture my musical abilities and provided encouragement and inspiration to pursue a career in music.



When some of my music, which was to be recorded by the London Philharmonic Orchestra, was performed by the IHS string quartet during a Christmas Concert.





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RICHARD MARSH INTERVIEW

What did you think of the campus and the extracurricular activities?

I thought the campus was a great environment. Both the Sixth Form building and the grounds were lovely. However, it was the people at the school which made it such an excellent place to be. This was particularly evident throughout Covid and, when the school was forced online, it was these connections which helped me tolerate lockdown. The school offered a wide choice of extracurricular activities and I remember my enthusiasm when participating in Model United Nations, being 'leader of the Liberal Democrats' (in the Ipswich High School mock elections) and participating in school bands. I also enjoyed the Sixth Form trip to Bologna and the Sixth Form ball.



What advice would you give a current pupil?

Make the most of the time at Ipswich High School and take opportunities. At IHS you can take these risks knowing you will be supported.

Additionally, I would advise pursuing a subject that really means something to them. You are more likely to be successful if you pursue something you enjoy. As others have said, if you do something you love, you never have to work a day in your life!

Sentence to sum up your time at school.

It was an invigorating and inspiring place where teachers helped build on my strengths and foster my ambitions.

Be Part of Our Alumni Community

If you would like to contribute to our next Alumni Newsletter, please send your news, stories and announcements to

alumni@ipswichhiahschool.co.uk

We would be delighted to hear from you!

Follow Us On Twitter!

@Alumni_IHS_WH



ALUMNI MERCHANDISE



Alumni Ties

Exciting News for Woolverstonian Alumni! We are thrilled to announce the launch of our exclusive Woolverstonian Network Alumni Ties. All profits will go towards the Cricket Pavilion Fund. Purchase your tie today and be a part of something special!

Click link to purchase: https://bit.ly/ihsshop



FUNDRAISING





Limited Edition Michael Coulter Woolverstone Print

Some 10 years ago, Michael Coulter, a local renowned artist and former teacher, painted a vibrant watercolour to celebrate the 20th anniversary of Ipswich High School moving to Woolverstone Hall. The original artwork hangs in the Leggett Room at Woolverstone Hall.

We have recently found a number of these prints in our archives and to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the school's move to Woolverstone Hall, we thought it was the perfect time to offer the opportunity to purchase one as a memento.



All proceeds will go towards the restoration of the Woolverstone Hall Cricket Pavilion



FROM THE HEAD

We are always grateful for the engagement and support of our Alumni.

We enjoyed a wonderful Spring lunch with our OGAs back in April and look forward to the annual Old Boys V Staff cricket match with the WHS alumni on the 17th August 2024. I was also delighted that we had much interest from the Woolverstonian Network from alumni willing to help film promotional video clips talking about their time at IHS and the important place the school has in their personal journey. I would like to thank the following for spending time with us on 29th June and I look forward to sharing their videos with you all next year:

Kellan B, Finance Student, Alexandros N, RAF Aircrew, Charlie C, Resident Graduate Assistant Scarlett M-A, TV Producer, Abby S, Norland Nanny, Ahmad R, Medicine Student Abi J, Graduate Apprentice for Cyber Security at BT, Claire W, Deputy Head of a Prep School

I would also like to thank Kyriacos Tsaparelli, also known as Zap the Magician, 1967 – 1974 for joining us on 3rd July as our special guest speaker at our Prep School Prize Giving. With over 4 decades performing experience and thousands of miles of travel performing around the world Zap has earned his reputation as a true International Performer having entertained thousands of people from all walks of life with some of the most memorable being: Prince Phillip, Prince Andrew, Hugh Grant, Margaret Thatcher, Sir Richard Branson, Sir Philip Green, Tom Cruise & Nicole Kidman, Henry Cooper, George Michael, Chris de Burgh, to name but a few. Zap not only made a wonderful speech about his time at school and the impact it had on him, but also delighted the pupils with a magic show!





Finally, I urge you to remain in touch with us, attend events, pass us your stories and news for us to celebrate. You are always welcome back and will always be part of the IHS family.



IHS COLOUR RUN

"Your life is a canvas, make sure you paint it with lots of colourful days"

Community can mean having a particular characteristic, or a group of people sharing certain attitudes and interests in common. We showcased our excellent community on Friday 26th April when the whole school came together throughout the afternoon to take part in the Colour Run.

As a result of our collective efforts, you have impacted those who have limited access to quality education and healthcare, and inadequate infrastructure in Tanzania.

Reflecting on the event, the World Challenge Team would like to say thank you for **Inspiring** us with your enthusiasm which we will take into our community initiative in Tanzania, that spreading Happiness is vital for our well-being and those around you, and that creating a challenge where we can all be Successful allows us to build our resilience, perseverance and make memories that shape US.







HAYWORTH PLAYERS

Hayworth Players at National Theatre Connections

Our Hayworth Players cast and crew took to the stage of The Garage in Norwich to present our production of Titas Halder's new play 'Replica' as part of National Theatre Connections 2024.

Feedback from our home performance in the Hayworth Theatre had been very positive. Shane Dempsey, NT Connections Mentor Director, wrote, 'This is a detailed and delicate production of the play that celebrates the individual skills of the acting company', adding, 'There were strong characterisation throughout, and the actors handled the text with lots of strong acting choices'. We really enjoyed talking with Shane after the show, discussing how the piece had developed and what our focus would be over the final rehearsals leading up to the partner theatre performance. He wrote, 'In our post-show chat they were enthusiastic about their creative journey and had a strong sense of ownership over the material'.





It was an early start on Saturday, leaving school at 8.30am so we would arrive in time for our 10.30am technical rehearsal. After a break for lunch, and the purchase of some very necessary fresh churros (required as props in the play), our cast and crew enjoyed a fantastic workshop with Sam Webber, Drama Practitioner, exploring how an audience's focus can be controlled in ensemble work. One of the best things National Theatre Connections is having the opportunity to share work with other youth theatre companies, and the Hayworth Players really enjoyed watching '20Twenty Productions' performance of 'Kiss/Marry/Push Off Cliff' by Jo Sykes in the afternoon. After a shared pizza tea, it was our turn to perform, and the pupils gave an incredible final performance. The energy and drive of the piece was outstanding, with superb character work from each of the young performers and flawless lighting and sound throughout. It was a long and busy day, returning to school at 9.30pm, but incredibly worthwhile for all involved. We couldn't be more proud of the professional level of production that the Hayworth Players achieved, demonstrating our shared vision of #ExcellenceinPerformingArts.

IHS SUCCESS

Music Exam Success

Congratulations to many of our students who passed ABRSM exams last term. Although taking exams can be a stressful experience, students enjoy marking their progress with a certificate and formal recognition of the work they have carried out. Successful candidates last term were: Alev, Ivy, Alexia, Lorin, Georgia, Alva, Evie, Charlotte, Martha, Idunn, Willow, Franki, and Hettie. Special mention goes to Mathea who skipped out of her exam saying, "that was fun," and has already taken two exams despite only being in Year 4.

Another highly successful student is Archie, in Year 13, who has added a distinction in Grade 8 Organ to his other two Grade 8 distinctions. Archie has also been successful in applying for a vocal course this summer with Stile Antico.

Scholars Showcase Evening

On Monday evening our academic, art and music scholars presented the results of their hard work over the past school year. Since October, students have been busy working on their independent projects, based on the theme of 'Foundations'.

Students were able to interpret this idea however they wished, and this led to a fantastic range of high quality displays and recitals inspired by art, architecture, history, literature, technology and sport.

Guests enjoyed canapés as they wandered around the Orangery, speaking to scholars about their endeavours. Music scholars demonstrated their skills with a selection of music on the piano and guitar and good fun was had by all!









IHS SCHOOL NEWS

D-Day 80: Woolverstone Hall pays tribute

Ipswich High School opened the doors of Woolverstone Hall to members of the public who wished to pay tribute to the many thousands of forces personnel who sacrificed so much to help secure the freedoms we all benefit from today.

Attendees arrived from 8.30pm and made their way through to the River Lawn at the back of Woolverstone Hall. There was a number of short readings followed by the lighting of a beacon at 9.15 pm, the same time that thousands of beacons were lit across the UK.







Year 9 trip to Paris

44 Year 9's were joined by Miss Wooltorton, Mrs Stewart, Mr Collishaw, Mr Wright and Mr Thompson for their residential trip to Paris and Disneyland.

After a long journey to Paris, they enjoyed a river cruise along the Seine before heading over to spend some time exploring the Eiffel Tower. They then headed back to their accommodation to get some well-earned rest before being up early on Thursday for a busy day exploring the parks at Disneyland. With multiple visits to Hyperspace Mountain, Tower of Terror and Flight Force, we then ended the day with the Electrical Sky Parade and the Disney Illuminations show. Our final day in Paris began with exploring the shops and a trip up the Montparnasse Tower where they enjoyed having some time to relax outside on the observation deck.

A brilliant trip with memories made for a lifetime.







WEDDINGS AT WOOLVERSTONE HALL

TAILORED TO YOUR PERSONAL REQUIREMENTS TO CREATE AN EXPERIENCE AS INDIVIDUAL AS YOU ARE

Woolverstone Hall is a magnificent Grade I listed mansion set within 87 acres of Suffolk parkland on the banks of the River Orwell, just five miles outside of Ipswich. With a rich history, stunning river views and spectacular architecture, Woolverstone Hall is a unique and beautiful setting made exclusively yours for the most amazing wedding day



TO HAVE AND TO HOLD

Woolverstone Hall has the most beautiful locations where you will make memories to last a lifetime.
Whether you're looking for an intimate gathering or a large affair, the perfect setting awaits.

FROM THIS DAY FORWARD

When you book Woolverstone Hall, the venue is exclusively yours for the day. Let us become your canvas as you create an unforgettable wedding.





AN IDYLLIC COUNTRY HOUSE WEDDING VENUE IN SUFFOLK

ARRANGE A VIEWING



KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH ALUMNI

Be Part of Our Alumni Community

If you would like to contribute to our next Alumni Newsletter, please send your news, stories and announcements to

alumni@ipswichhighschool.co.uk

We would be delighted to hear from you!

Follow Us On Twitter!

@Alumni_IHS_WH



The Old Girls' Association

Every female student who studied at Ipswich High prior to September 2018 is invited to join the Old Girls' Association (OGA). The 'old girls' are a diverse and far-flung group of individuals who are always welcome back at the school. Each year, the OGA holds a Spring Lunch and an AGM.

The OGA has a <u>Facebook page</u> to rekindle lost friendships, share memories, advertise OG events, and generally keep the conversation going.





The Old Boys' Association

From 1951 to 1990, Woolverstone Hall was home to Woolverstone Hall School, a secondary grammar boarding school for boys.

To help connect with past Woolverstone Hall pupils more effectively, the OBA has a <u>Facebook group</u> to rekindle lost friendships and share memories of their time at the school.