

THE BENTHAM

OLD GOWERS' NEWSLETTER - APRIL 2017

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OG news, reviews, events & achievements / UCS Spring Term



Welcome to the fourth issue of The Bentham.

This term was full of exciting news from the School and Old Gowers alike.

We have relaunched our presence on [LinkedIn](#). Follow us as a school and connect with fellow OGs. You might be surprised who works at your company or who turns out to be working in the same industry as you.

For those of you who don't have Facebook but would like to see photos from OG events throughout the year, you can now find all our photos on [Flickr](#).

As always, if you have updates you would like to share or any questions about the

OG club please do email [me](#) or call if you prefer on **020 7433 2310**.

Lilly de Bie
Development and Alumni Officer

School News & Reviews / Celebrating Spring Term at UCS



UCS U18 Rugby Sevens at the Hamptons Tournament

School Activities / #MyUCS

The Spring Term at UCS has seen our sports teams stretching their legs and chasing titles, most notably our new table tennis team which made it to the National Championships this year. The boys' rugby and football teams have had some great successes, as have the girls' football and netball teams and the mixed cross-country teams. International Women's Day was recognised this year in a charitable staff-student game raising money to raise awareness of FGM.

Our Sixth Formers have had a full term academically with their university offers, as well as in their co-curricular pursuits during Mad March and Big Friday. Illustrating their caring nature, our Transitus and Sixth Form have still found the time to contribute over 4,000 hours of volunteering support on Friday afternoon's in local organisations from Oxfam, to local schools to Jewish Care over the last two terms. The impressive Transitus and Sixth drama examination performance pieces were held this term, as was the hugely successful sell-out Middle School play, Enron.

This term's Science and Maths Enrichment Week showcased some fantastic speakers and practical's, and the Morris Lecture programme from UCS teachers continues to expand and broaden pupil perspectives. Pupil successes in competitions abound, from Model United Nations, to the Brain Bee competition to the BEBRAS Computational Thinking Challenge. Details of all of these and more can be found each week on UCS' new [website](#).

Laura Megaw
(Director of Communications)

This is to let you know about two exciting UCS concerts that are happening right at the start of next term.

Saturday April 22nd Great Hall 7.30pm - Thomas Gould (violin) and Gwilym

Simcock (piano)

Since leaving UCS Thom Gould has developed into the leading British violinist of his generation, appearing as a soloist in the BBC Proms and regularly leading the Britten Sinfonia. Gwilym Simcock is the leading 'crossover' pianist of our time, equally at home in Classical as well as Jazz repertoire, and celebrated for his astonishing improvisatory skills. They are frequent collaborators and, together with Mike Walker (guitar), Martin Berauer (bass) and Bernhard Schimpelsberger (drums and percussion) are presenting a typically eclectic and stimulating programme, combining music by JS Bach for violin and keyboard in the first half with a second half of Jazz. Thom will be dedicating the concert to Fergus Read (1965-2006) who was an inspirational Jazz Techniques teacher at UCS from 1997-2006.

As you can see this concert has something for everyone. It is a must for violinists, pianists, aficionados of Jazz, guitarists, bass guitarists and drummers, and general lovers of great music. Tickets are available from www.ticketsource.co.uk/universitycollegeschool

Thursday April 27th - The Garcia Masterclass in Memory of Kenneth Durham (with Fine Arts Brass Ensemble)

Philip and Nicola Garcia are generously sponsoring a series of Brass Masterclasses over the coming years with the aim of inspiring UCS pupils to take up a brass instrument - particularly the 'endangered' French Horn, Trombone and Tuba. The inaugural masterclass will include a visit to UCS by Fine Arts Brass Ensemble, featuring some of Britain's leading brass players. Old Gowers are warmly invited to attend two events on the day;

- a public masterclass between 4.30pm and 5.30pm in the New Lecture Theatre featuring FAB and leading UCS brass players Naomi Martin (OG), Tom Garcia (OG) and Michael Kohn
- a concert at 7.30pm in the Great Hall featuring FAB, the masterclass participants and UCS Brass Sinfonia

I hope to see many of you at one (or both!) of these events.

Chris Dawe
(Director of Music)



The Old Gowers' Guild Wine Tasting / Events in the UCS Community

The first Old Gowers' Guild meet-up took place in London's only urban winery on 15th December. We gathered for an evening of wine tasting hosted by Gavin, who runs London Cru winery in South London. It was an informal occasion where OGs had the chance to ask questions and chat over wine and cheese. Some myths about wine tasting and the politics of wine were even dispelled.



The Class of 1992 Reunion / Events in the UCS Community

On the 24th January we welcomed back a group of 30 Old Gowers for their 25 year on reunion. Comments were made on the improvement of the food, apparently it was chips every day for lunch back in the 90s! Deputy Head, Andrew Wilkes even dug out his mark book from 1991 and OGs enjoyed a good giggle over their grades.



The Headmaster's Lunch / Events in the UCS Community

Tuesday 7th February marked the relaunch of the annual Headmaster's Lunch. 80 Old Gowers returned to School upon invitation by Mark Beard for a flavour of UCS school life; a lunch in the Refectory and a lunchtime concert. Two events that occur simultaneously at least once a week for the UCS boys and girls. Guests enjoyed a lunch of Corn-Fed Chicken and Vegetable Open Lasagne before making their way through the school to the Giles Slaughter Wing. There they watched a lunchtime concert performed by pupils from a range of year groups. The concert included two string quartets, a rendition of One for My Baby and a Jazz 'Jam'. The musicians received much praise from the audience on their tremendous performances before guests headed home. A few Old Gowers even made trip to visit the Junior Branch on their way and were welcomed by JB Headmaster Lewis Hayward. We look forward to next year's lunch!



The Old Gowers' Annual Dinner / Events in the UCS Community

The evening started with one of the best attended OG Club AGMs for a fair while. Following this over 100 Old Gowers, Former Masters, and Current Teachers all dressed in black tie gathered in the Refectory for pre-dinner drinks. Once the gong was struck at precisely 7.30pm guests made their way to their tables to enjoy a three course meal. The various different school trophies on tables created a talking point, and it was great to see them out and being admired. Over coffee and brandy, toasts were made by the OG Club President followed by a toast to the OG club by Junior Branch Headmaster; Lewis Hayward. Adrian's speech reflected on those dear to us lost over the year and even included a topical Donald Trump joke! The

sound system was working brilliantly this year, so much so that Lewis didn't need it during his speech! The atmosphere was friendly and relaxed, and the evening drew to a close after night caps were shared.



UCS Real Estate Networking Evening / Events in the UCS Community

On Thursday 16th March around 30 Old Gowers and parents had the opportunity to meet, and exchange a few business cards (!), over beer and antipasti in Marylebone. The event was kindly hosted by Dean Jaraj (OG 1999-2006) at Blend Property. The networking even carried on in the garden after Sophie von Maltzahn addressed guests and, amongst other things, encouraged them to check out the new look school website and the brand new OG Flickr gallery. It was the first property networking evening the OG Club has organised, but it certainly won't be the last!

OGs in Media

Zak Abel (OG 2006-2013) revisited UCS last month to do a photo shoot for Boys by Girls magazine. The pupils were very excited to see Zak at their school and were interested to learn that Zak like them had attended UCS. One cheeky student even asked for tickets to his concert that week! Zak kindly agreed to sing with one sixth former and they performed one of his songs in front of a few friends there and then!

OGs in Print

Former Teacher Terry Morris (1970-2008) has completed his main retirement project by publishing 'Vain Games of No Value?'. The book draws together many threads of earlier work, and adds much original research, to provide the most comprehensive study to date of the social history of British Football. It is a candidate for the Lord Aberdare Prize, awarded annually by the British Society of Sports Historians for the year's most outstanding work in this field. Terry's book is available from Amazon.

OGs in Sport

Mert Zabcı (OG 1994-2004) has played flanker in three games for the Turkish National Rugby Team as part of the European Nations Cup competition since April 2016. Turkey had two significant wins at home to Finland and Norway but narrowly lost to Norway away by four points. Mert was made captain for the side for the final 20 minutes against Finland and was chosen man of the match in the final game against Norway, which were significant honours. Mert now has ten caps for the national side and four international tries.

Nicholas Lakeland (OG 1979-1984) has decided to enrol into the Maccabiah (the Jewish Olympics) this year. He is also helping to recruit additional team members. All ages are welcome and details of the Maccabiah can be found at <http://www.maccabiah.com/2017/eng/> If any Old Gowers are interested please get in touch with [Nicholas](#).

OGs in Black and White

Do you have any old photos of your time at UCS? Would you be willing to write a short paragraph that tells a memory of your time at UCS? We would be happy to include them in the next edition of The Gower magazine.

Contributions can be sent to oldgowers@ucs.org.uk

OG Events / Date for your diary

The Old Gowers' Guild National Gallery Private Tour | 7th April 2017

Class of 2007 Reunion | 26th April 2017 - The Refectory

Class of 1967 Reunion | 11th May 2017 - The Refectory

Scottish Borders Reunion | 26th May 2017 - The Hall's House

The Old Gowers' Summer Drinks Party | 8th June 2017 - The Junior Branch

For all events, please RSVP to Lilly in the Development Office at oldgowers@ucs.org.uk or on **020 7433 2310**.

If you have a suggestion for a future event, please do get in touch.

Get Involved / Careers and Sport

Sport with your fellow OGs

CALLING ALL GOLFERS

The UCS Old Gowers Golf Society is currently looking for new members. The Society traditionally has four social outings per annum, invariably on courses in Middlesex, Herts, and Bucks.

In addition UCS can compete/and has competed in the past in a prestigious golf tournament by the name of the Grafton Morrish, a tournament for the former pupils (male and female) of schools the headmaster of which attends the Headmasters' Conference. The competition started in 1964, with UCS one of the founder members. It is a scratch foursomes competition and we are looking for single figure handicap golfers who would be interested in playing in this event.

If you are interested in any of the above, please contact any one of the following:

Chris Willis - UCSOGGS@gmail.com

Adrian Paterson - five.patersons@btinternet.com

Marc Waterman - m.waterman@uhy-uk.com



Sponsor an event

Each year we co-host an industry-specific networking event sponsored by an Old Gower's firm. We are aiming to increase this to two networking evenings a year. If you would like to suggest an industry or you would like to host in 2018, please do let us know.

Support UCS Career Connections

We are organising the first ever careers fair for the Remove form this summer on Thursday 15th June.

The purpose of the event will be to give our pupils the opportunity to talk to Old Gowers about the realities of working in a particular industry. The afternoon will be composed of several specialist sessions in small groups and will run from 2pm until 3.45pm.

We would be excited to hear from Old Gowers in any career who would be willing to participate in this event. If you are able to join us please email oldgowers@ucs.org.uk

Support Pupil Volunteering

We many volunteering organisations who our pupils work with in the autumn and spring terms, however we are always looking for more local charities to work with.

Sixth Form pupils volunteer on a Friday afternoon from 2-4pm from September to April.

If you know of any charities or organisations within the OG community who may benefit from this please let us know oldgowers@ucs.org.uk

UCS
HAMPSTEAD



UCS Old Gowers Club | oldgowers@ucs.org.uk | 020 7433 2310 | www.ucs.org.uk



Don't miss out! Have you moved house recently? [Update your contact details here](#)