

THE BENTHAM

OLD GOWERS' NEWSLETTER - AUTUMN 2018

[News & Events](#)

[Publications](#)

[Support UCS](#)

OG News, Reviews, Events & Achievements - UCS Autumn Term



Welcome to the eighth issue of The Bentham, which is also my first.

My name is Elana and I took over from Lilly and Guste in early September. I have spent the last few months learning as much as I can about the Old Gower community and have been planning some great events for 2019.

As always, if you have updates you would like to share in the next issue or any questions about the Old Gowers' club please do [email](#) or call us on **020 7433 2310**. I look forward to hearing from you.

I hope you and your families have a wonderful holiday season.

Best wishes,

Elana Dwek
Development and Alumni Relations Officer

School News & Reviews / Celebrating Autumn Term at UCS



Former and current Captains of Monitors at the Act of Remembrance

School Activities / #MyUCS

By the time the guns had fallen silent at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day on November 1918, 252 former staff and boys of UCS had fallen for their country. Both as a proportion of the school population as well as the total figure, this is a high number compared with other public schools of the day. A remarkable fact is that, in 1918 alone, four former Captains of Monitors lost their lives in the line of duty: Thomas Chant (age 27), Arnold Fairbairns (36), John Hamer (20) and John Russell (19).

During the school's Act of Remembrance at our War Memorial earlier this term, our two current Captains were joined by two former Captains to lay four posies in honour of their predecessors. This evoked an emotional response in those present and we received several poignant letters from Old Gowers who were also in attendance. However, I was most touched by a letter from the year two children (age 7) at the UCS Pre-Prep, who had walked up the hill to Froggnal specially: *"Dear Mr Beard, thank you for inviting us to the Senior School for the Remembrance Service. It was amazing. It was quite tiring standing for that long but thank you for telling us about all of the UCS boys who went to war. We really liked the music with the bagpipes and trumpets. The two-minute silence felt quite long but I thought about the soldiers who died to help us."* The dignity and respect shown by all members of UCS at Remembrance is rather a reflection of the tone of the Autumn Term as a whole.

Another quality that has been pleasingly abundant is patience. And not just in the Lunch Queue. More than just a library, the AKO Creative Learning Centre was open for business after half term but did require the patience and understanding of everybody in the first half of term. I thank sincerely the library staff who emptied and sorted the stock from the old library, established a temporary library facility operating out of K1 and frantically re-stocked the new facility over half term.

The other area of school life where patience has been more than a virtue is in rugby and football. The school community - including parents - has been remarkably sanguine over the fact that both the new pavilion and new pitches have not been ready this term. The 1st XV were nonetheless able to enjoy an unbeaten run at

home, winning 1 from 1 at Ranulf Road last Saturday, on a pitch that was well-drained despite the heavy rain that week.

One final highlight to point out. Earlier this term, UCS was shortlisted for the Performing Arts category of the Independent Schools of the Year Awards 2018. The judges were impressed with the huge range of opportunities available to pupils; they noted the ambition of the various projects tackled across the age ranges by the Music, Drama and Dance departments and the high calibre and complexity of the collaborative productions, *West Side Story* and *The Tempest*, staged during 2017-18.

This term we enjoyed an extraordinary production of *The Laramie Project*. Mrs Levy, our LAMDA teacher, praised the "*sensitive direction*" of Mr Abbott the Director and the "*inspiring guidance in movement*" of Mrs Tran. The show was gripping from start to end with the quality of the acting being truly outstanding. It was another fabulous UCS show.

Not to be outshone, another amazing term of Music crescendoed in the Autumn Concert. To quote one of the parents who wrote in afterwards, "*The level the students played at was simply mesmerising and, bearing in mind UCS is not a specialist performing arts school, the music staff must be commended for their skill, dedication and enthusiasm - which clearly rubs off on the boys and girls, else they wouldn't be able to perform at such a high level. It was, unquestionably, a fantastic performance which we thoroughly enjoyed and a really wonderful evening.*"

I hope you enjoy browsing this edition of *The Bentham* to acquire a stronger flavour of what has been going on this term.

Mark Beard
Headmaster

Old Gower News / Celebrating the OG Community



Patrick Kane at Pace rehabilitation centre in Stockport. Photograph: Christopher Thomond for the Guardian

Patrick Kane (OG 2004-2015) / OGs in the News

Patrick Kane has a pretty impressive CV for someone in his early twenties. Amongst other things, he's pursuing a B.Sc. in Biochemistry from the University of Edinburgh, is an ambassador for both the UK Sepsis Trust and Össur and carried the Olympic torch in 2012. At the age of 13, Patrick also became the youngest person in the world with a bionic arm.

Patrick was born with all his limbs, but at the age of 9 months he contracted meningococcal septicaemia, a dangerous infection of the blood. This illness nearly killed him and resulted in the partial amputation of two limbs. He now dedicates his life

to raising awareness for the UK Sepsis Trust by giving talks and doing interviews. He has also worked closely with Touch Bionics, who were subsequently bought by an Icelandic prosthetics company Össur, to help with research and development of his bionic arm. In return, he receives free upgrades on his prosthesis and travels internationally to represent them and meet other amputees.

The journey to finding the right prosthetics for Patrick has not been an easy one. It was hard to design legs for babies and the first ones he used were awkward and would fall off. As Patrick got older, he found that he had no patience for aesthetics, but was far more interested in functionality. This drove Patrick and his family's desire to find prosthetics for him which served a purpose and helped him do what he wanted to do in life.

For more on Patrick's story, [read his piece in the Guardian](#).

OGs and Music

Hampstead Chorus is performing Handel's "Messiah"
at 7pm on Saturday 26th January
in the Great Hall, University College School

Hampstead Chorus is doing a workshop and performance of Handel's "Messiah," in aid of our partner charity the Marie Curie Hospice in Hampstead, on Saturday January 26th 2019.

The rehearsal is at 2pm (singers: please bring your own scores - preferably Novello/Watkins Shaw edition) and the performance at 7pm, both in the Great Hall at UCS. There are no formal tickets - singers are asked to donate a suggested minimum of £15 (cash or cheque to "Marie Curie"), and audience members will be asked for a donation at the door.

Further details are available on [our website](#).

HAMPSTEAD
CHORUS

Messiah
Handel

COME
and
SING

Rehearsal - 14:00
Concert - 19:00

Saturday
26 Jan 2019

The Great Hall, UCS
Frognaal, London NW3 6XH

Simon Walton - Musical Director
Edward Kemp-Luck - Organist

Please come with cash or cheques to make a donation to Marie Curie - suggested minimum donation £15. Audience tickets also by donation to Marie Curie at the door. Please bring your own score (ideally Novello ed. Watkins Shaw)
For more information go to www.hampsteadchorus.org.uk
Affiliated with University College School

OG Events / Dates for Your Diary

The Class of 1994 Reunion | Thursday, 31st January 2019

The Old Gowers' Annual Dinner and AGM | Thursday, 28th February 2019

Tech Networking Event | Wednesday, 27th March 2019

The Class of 1969 Reunion | Wednesday, 17th April 2019

OG Guild Event | Wednesday, 1st May 2019

Class of 2009 Reunion | Wednesday, 15th May 2019

The Old Gowers' Summer Drinks Party | Wednesday, 12th June 2019

For all events, please RSVP to Miss Rebecca Coleman in the Development Office at oldgowers@ucs.org.uk or on **020 7433 2107**.

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

Please note that event dates are subject to change.

Get Involved / Volunteering, Career, Networking and Mentoring Opportunities

Support fellow Old Gowers

Would you like to be a representative for other OGs of your decade at UCS?

Tasks will include:

- Being an ambassador for both your decade and year group
- Promoting year group reunions within your decade
- Attending the annual Old Gowers' AGM (being a point of contact throughout the year and raising any points at the AGM)

If you would like to put yourself forward to be nominated as a decade representative please email oldgowers@ucs.org.uk.

Work within the Old Gower Community

Law Internship with Child & Child

Child & Child are a boutique commercial law firm based in Victoria, London, offering law students an internship to obtain first-hand experience of what it is like to work in a law firm and to be a lawyer at Child & Child.

We offer an internship to law students lasting 2 weeks in the summer holiday period from June to October 2019.

We will allow you the opportunity to experience the working practices of the firm during your internship. This will include attending client and internal meetings and to provide assistance with current cases. Our objective will be to ensure that you experience interesting and good quality work.

Places will be limited with selection based on a number of criteria, including academic ability and a commitment to the law. Our preference is for students in their penultimate or final year of their degree.

How to apply:

If you would like to be considered for an internship at the firm for summer 2019, please contact Chris Lloyd at chrislloyd@childandchild.co.uk and provide the following details:

1. Full name and address.
 2. Mobile number.
 3. Email address.
 4. Name of your University.
 5. Name of your Degree.
 6. Expected grade.
 7. A short explanation as to why you would like to become a solicitor.
 8. Why you would like an internship at Child & Child.
-

Lilypads



Participants on a menstrual health education programme in Kenya, run by Bronwyn Mathews

Lilypads was co-founded in 2017 by a group of five students at Edinburgh University, including two Old Gowers - Bronwyn Mathews (OG 2014-2016) and Indigo Mathews (OG 2015-2017), as part of the Enactus charity programme.

Lilypads works to provide women and girls in Kenya with reusable sanitary pads, while providing them with menstrual health management education. In order to make their project sustainable, they have employed 32 locals in both the production and sales processes. The cost is considerably lower than that of disposable pads, costing 260 shillings to produce and then sold at 290 shillings for a pack of three and a bag. 25 shillings of the profit goes towards the local women's salaries, and the remaining 5 shillings are used to pay off the micro-finance loan that enabled the company to start production.



In order to expand the organisation throughout Kenya and into other countries, as well as across the UK, Lilypads need your help. Do you work in international development, product development or testing, sales, textiles and manufacturing, education models, the charity sector, healthcare or sustainability? If so, you could support your fellow Old Gowers, as well as a really exciting new charity. Please contact Indigo Mathews for more information: team@lilypads.org.uk.

Two Old Gowers are looking to speak with a contract lawyer regarding a business they'd like to set up. If you can spare 10-15 minutes of your time for a phone call, please contact oldgowers@ucs.org.uk.

OG Merchandise

The Old Gowers' Club Colours

Socks and ties in the Old Gowers' club colours are available.



You can get your own by completing the form below, or the one you will receive with The Gower magazine, and returning it to Miss Rebecca Coleman at UCS Senior School.

[Click here for an order form](#)

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](#)